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2001 Consumer Action Handbook

United States General Services Administration Federal Consumer Information Center

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Single copies of the current **Consumer Action Handbook** are available free by writing **Handbook**, Federal Consumer Information Center, Pueblo CO 81009 or by calling 1-800-688-9889. The **Handbook** can also be viewed and ordered on the FCIC web site: www.pueblo.gsa.gov.

The 2001 **Consumer Action Handbook** will be current through summer 2002. To place your name on a mailing list to receive the 2002 **Handbook**, please call 1-800-688-9889. For information that is updated weekly, click on the **Handbook** at www.pueblo.gsa.gov.

Contributors

The Federal Consumer Information Center wishes to express its gratitude to the partners listed below who helped make possible the publication of the **2001 Consumer Action Handbook**.

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How To Use This Handbook

Part I - Before You Buy. This section contains general advice on steps to take when shopping for goods or services, warnings on what to watch out for, and specific information on how to shop for certain major items such as cars, credit and home improvements. Follow the suggestions and use the resources listed in this section when you're considering a purchase and want to make the best buy. Use the index beginning on page 141 to find information on specific topics.

Part II - After You Buy. Turn to this section if you have a problem after making a purchase, including finding legal advice or getting help from the media. Follow the form of the sample complaint letter to present your complaint most effectively.

Part III - Consumer Assistance Directory. Check here to find the most appropriate place(s) to file your complaint or ask a question. This section provides individual names, addresses, telephone numbers, TDD/TTY and fax numbers, e-mail addresses, and web sites for contacts in consumer organizations, corporations, trade associations, and government agencies at the city, county, state and Federal level. To save space, the web site addresses omit http:// and begin with www to indicate access through the World Wide Web. These sites have a "contact us" button or provide another way to send your message directly to the company or agency.

We need your help to keep the **Handbook** up-to-date. Please report any changes to **Handbook Update**, Federal Consumer Information Center, 1800 F Street, NW, Rm. G-142, Washington, DC 20405, or e-mail catalog.pueblo@gsa.gov.

Part I Before You Buy

If you take the following steps and heed the warnings set out below, you have a good chance of avoiding problems and being happy about what you bought.

- Decide in advance exactly what you want and what you can afford.
- Research the product or service by using the following resources. (See Smart Shopping Online, page 29, for additional online research and shopping tips.)

Federal Consumer Information Center (FCIC)

Pueblo, CO 1-800-688-9889 TDD: 1-800-326-2996 www.pueblo.gsa.gov FCIC, part of the U.S. General Services Administration, is a one-stop source of print and electronic Federal consumer information. FCIC can help you find information about Federal Government agencies, services, and programs. It can also tell you which office to contact for help with problems. FCIC does not handle consumer complaints, but it does enable

consumers to send complaints directly to companies and agencies through its web site. Click on the **Consumer Action Handbook**.

The free Consumer Information Catalog lists more than 200 free or low-cost Federal booklets on topics such as careers and education, cars, child care, the environment, Federal benefits, financial planning, food and nutrition, health, housing, small business and more. For a free Catalog, order from the web site or send your name and

address to Federal Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, CO 81009 or call 1-800-688-9889 TDD: 1-800-326-2996. Open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. eastern time, M-F.

Go to www.pueblo.gsa.gov to:

- view and download free copies, or to order publications listed in the Catalog,
- search for topics of interest,
- link to other Federal agencies and consumer offices,
- get a calendar of upcoming events and the latest consumer news,
- find new publications and special resources that may not be available in print, and
- use links to send complaints.

Center for the Study of Services

733 15th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202-347-7283 Fax: 202-347-4000

www.checkbook.org
This nonprofit organization

publishes books and pamphlets to help consumers select a wide variety of goods and services, including doctors, hospitals and health plans; offers information and services to help consumers get good prices on new cars; and maintains an on-line database to help consumers shop for good

prices and desired features in big-ticket products, such as electronics and major appliances.

Consumers Union of U.S. (CU)

101 Truman Avenue Yonkers, NY 10703-1057 914-378-2000

Fax: 914-378-2900

www.consumerreports.org

A nonprofit, independent organization, CU researches and tests consumer goods and services, publishing the results in its monthly magazine, **Consumer Reports**, as well as in other publications and media.

Consumer World Web Site

www.consumerworld.org

Consumer World is a public service site, which has gathered over 1,700 of the most useful consumer resources on the Internet, and categorized them for easy access.

Cooperative Extension Service

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been a source of information and assistance to consumers for decades. With an educator in nearly every U.S. county, Cooperative Extension brings the research-based knowledge of

the land grant universities directly to families and communities. Programs cover food and nutrition, housing, gardening, personal finance issues such as budgeting, borrowing, using credit wisely, saving for retirement and other goals, and more. To locate your county office, check the blue pages of your phone book or call your county government.

Libraries

You can find many of the publications mentioned in the Handbook at public libraries. Some university and private libraries also allow individuals to use their reference materials.

Check your local telephone directory for the location of nearby libraries.

U.S. Government Printing Office

Library Service Program Stop: SLLD Washington, DC 20401 202-512-1119 Fax:202-512-1432

www.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/index.html

The Federal Depository Library Program provides public access to government information at nearly 1,400 libraries nationwide.

There is no universal three-day cooling off period.

Do not be misled into thinking that you have an automatic three-day or other cancellation period for all purchases. Only a few types of contracts give you a right to cancel. Federal law, for example, gives you the right to cancel certain door-to-door contracts within three days, and some states provide for cancellation periods for such things as health and dating club contracts. Check with your state and local consumer office (see page 70) for more information about cancellation rights.

www.pueblo.gsa.gov

FCIC is always updating the information in the **Handbook** and on our web site as well. Monthly **Consumer Focus** articles feature timely information on a variety of topics, new links are being added, and **In the News** helps keep you up-to-date. Visit us at www.pueblo.gsa.gov.

Ask friends and family for recommendations based on their experience.

- Shop around. Compare prices and get more than one estimate.
- Learn about existing warranties and compare them. To find out about warranties that may be required by law, call your state or local consumer protection office.
- Check out a company's complaint record with your local consumer affairs office (page 70) and the Better Business Bureau (page 117). Knowing the number of complaints is not enough. Find out, if you can, the nature of the complaints filed. If you are making a large purchase, it is a good idea to take a look at the actual complaint files and see how the company responded. A certain number of complaints against a small company may be more significant than the same number against a larger one.
- Make sure that the company has all appropriate state and local licenses and has complied with any other regulations. Occupational and professional licensing boards cover doctors, lawyers, and home improvement contractors, as well as other businesses. For more information, see page 70.
- Read and understand any contract you are asked to sign. Make sure that all the blanks are filled in and that any verbal promises made by the salesperson are also in writing.
- Extended warranties or service contracts offer a high margin of profit to the business. You need to decide whether the extra peace of mind you gain is worth the price. To find out

- more, contact the Federal Trade Commission (see page 114) or your state or local consumer office (see page 70).
- Check out a seller's refund and return policy and get it in writing.
- Consider paying by credit card. If you later have a legitimate dispute with the seller, you do not have to pay a charge made on your credit card. For more information on credit card protection see page 16.
- Check the index at the back of this Handbook for more specific information, and consult the Consumer Information Catalog (see page 1) for other brochures and pamphlets on selected consumer topics.

o not give out your credit card number, checking or savings account number, Social Security number, or other personal information to any company you do not know. See IdentityTheft, page 27.

Why These Tips?

Every year the Consumer Federation of America and the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators survey government consumer protection offices to find out what transactions generate the most complaints. The most recent "winners" were new and used car sales, auto repair, home improvement, retail sales, credit and lending, mail order, and auto leasing. Here are suggestions to help you avoid problems during these and other consumer transactions. For addresses, telephone numbers, and web sites of government offices and other organizations listed in this section, please consult Part III: Consumer Assistance Directory, page 35.

Car Repair, Buying, Leasing and Renting

Two web sites with general information on many of the topics below are www.Edmunds.com and www.lectlaw.com.

Consumerworld.org has links to many online resources. Click on shopping.

Car Repair

- Choose a reliable repair shop recommended to you by family or friends or an independent consumer rating organization. Check out the repair shop's complaint record with your state or local consumer protection office or Better Business Bureau.
- When you take the car to the shop, describe the symptoms. Don't diagnose the problem.
- Get more than one estimate in writing.

- Make it clear that work cannot begin until you have authorized it. Don't authorize work without a written estimate or, if the problem can't be diagnosed on the spot, insist that the shop contact you for your authorization once the trouble has been found.
- Don't sign a blank repair order. Make sure the repair order reflects what you want done before you sign it.
- Is the repair covered under warranty? Follow the warranty instructions.
- Ask the shop to keep the old parts for you.
- Get all warranties in writing.
- some car manufacturers may be willing to repair certain problems without charge even though the warranty has expired.
 Contact the manufacturer's zone representative or the dealer's service department listed on page 66 for assistance.
- Keep copies of all paperwork.
- Some states, cities and counties have special laws that deal with auto repairs.
 For information on the laws in your state, contact your state or local consumer protection office (page 70).

Buying a Car: New or Used

- · Comparison shop.
- Research options by reading Consumer Reports (www.consumerreports.org), Popular Mechanics (www.popularmechanics.com)

- and Motor Trend
 (www.motortrend.com) for
 performance, service, and
 safety ratings. Visit
 www.autoweb.com,
 www.autovantage.com,
 www.carpoint.com or
 www.autobytel.com to get
 quotes and purchase online.
- Don't buy on impulse or because the salesperson is pressuring you to make a decision.
- Read and understand every document you are asked to sign. Do not sign anything until you have made a final decision to buy.
- Handle your car trade-in, purchase, and financing as three separate transactions to get the best deal on each.
- Shop in advance for the best deal in financing at your credit union, bank or finance company. When you finance a car, the finance charge must be stated as an Annual Percentage Rate (APR).
- Compare their Annual Percentage Rate and total finance charge with financing offered by the dealer.
- Look at the total cost, not just the monthly payment.
- Get a written price quote before you talk about your trade-in or dealer financing.
- Don't take possession of the car until the financing paperwork is final.
- Avoid high-profit, lowvalue extras sold by dealers, such as credit insurance, extended service

contracts, auto club memberships, rustproofing and upholstery finishes. You do not have to purchase credit insurance in order to get a loan. See credit insurance, page 15.

- Check the complaint records of car dealers with your state or local consumer protection agency or Better Business Bureau.
- Read the "Buyers Guide" sticker required to be displayed in the window of the car. It gives information on warranties, if any are offered, and provides other information.

o not be misled into thinking that you have an automatic three-day cancellation period for all purchases. You can only legally cancel a few types of contracts.

 If the "warranty" box is checked off on the "Buyers Guide," ask for a copy and review it before you agree to buy the car.

Buying a New Car

- Evaluate your needs and financial situation.
- Test drive several models before you make a final choice.
- Find out the dealer's invoice price for the car and options. This is what the manufacturer charged the dealer for the car, not counting any rebates, allowances or other incen-

tives that reduce the cost to the dealer. You can order this information for a small fee from consumer publications you can find at your local library.

- Find out if the manufacturer is offering rebates that will lower the cost.
- Get price quotes from several dealers. Find out if the amounts quoted are the prices before or after the rebates are deducted.
- Inspect and test drive the vehicle you plan to buy.
- Dealer finance managers may try to "flip" your purchase to a lease, ignoring the agreed upon sales price and the promised allowance on the trade-in. Examine dealer documents carefully to make sure you are buying, not leasing, the vehicle.

 Look for a balloon payment and "base mileage" disclosures that indicate a lease instead of a finance contract.

Lemon Laws

States with new car "lemon laws" allow the owner a refund or replacement when a new vehicle has a substantial problem that is not fixed within a reasonable number of attempts. Many specify a refund or replacement when a substantial problem is not fixed in four repair attempts or the car has been out of service for 30 days within the first 12,000 miles/ 12 months. If you believe that your car is a lemon:

 contact your state or local consumer protection office (see page 70) for information on the laws in your state and the steps

- you must take to resolve the situation;
- give the dealer a list of symptoms every time you bring it in for repairs; keep copies for your records;
- get copies of the repair orders showing the reported problems, the repairs performed and the dates that the car was in the shop; and
- contact the manufacturer, as well as the dealer, to report the problem (page 66). Some state laws require that you do so to give the manufacturer a chance to fix the problem. Your owner's manual will list an address for the manufacturer.

Buying a Used Car

- Find a car that the dealer covers with a warranty by checking the "Buyers Guide" posted on used cars. Select a car with at least a 30-day, 100% warranty where the dealer agrees to pay all repair costs for covered items.
 Avoid "As Is - No Warranty" cars.
- Choose a safe car. Look for the current safety inspection sticker required by your state. Call the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration tollfree number (1-800-424-9393) to see if the manufacturer has recalled the car for safety defects. If it has been recalled, ask the dealer for proof that the defect has been repaired.
- Check with your state motor vehicle department to research the car's title history. Make sure the car

is not a "lemon buy-back," salvaged, or wrecked car.

Get the written mileage disclosure statement required by federal law from any seller and make sure it matches the odometer reading on the car.

Check the title to the car before you sign on the dotted line.

- Look carefully at the car in full daylight. Take it for a test drive. Have the car inspected by YOUR mechanic, and pay for a diagnostic test. Ask the mechanic if the car would pass a safety inspection so that you can ask the dealer to make repairs before you buy the car. Check out the frequency of repair records for used cars in Consumer Reports magazine that you can find at the library.
- Check prices at the library with the NADA Official Used Car Guide or used car pricing services. The Kelly Blue Book is on the web at www.kbb.com.
- Some states have laws giving extra protection to used car buyers. Contact your state or local consumer protection office to find out what rights you might have.

Buying from a Private Individual

Consider buying a used car from someone you know. You can get a reliable car for a lower price from the original owner who knows the car's service and repair record. But private sellers generally have less responsibility than dealers for defects or other problems.

- Check with your state's motor vehicle department on what paperwork you will need to register a vehicle.
- Make sure the seller isn't a dealer posing as an individual. That might mean the dealer is trying to evade the law and might be an indicator of problems with the car. Look at the title and registration. Make sure the seller is the registered owner of the vehicle.
- Ask the seller lots of detailed questions about the car.

When you lease, you pay to

Car Leasing

drive someone else's vehicle. Although leasing can involve lower monthly payments than a loan, at lease end, you still have no ownership or equity in the car. The Consumer Leasing Act requires leasing companies to disclose standardized information to lease customers. In addition to the information disclosed on a standardized form, you should always ask for an itemization of the capitalized cost. Shop as if you're buying a car. Negotiate all the lease terms, including the price of the vehicle. Lowering the lease price will help reduce your monthly payments. Get all the terms in writing. Ask about standards for wear and use. Dings that you may regard as normal wear and tear may be billed as significant damage at the end of your lease. Ask the dealer to give you an example of the early termination charges, for example, if the car is totaled six months after the lease is signed. Expect to pay a substantial charge if you give the car up before the end of

your lease. Most leases allow you to drive 12,000 to 15,000 miles a year. Expect a charge of 10 to 25 cents for each additional mile. Make sure the manufacturer's warranty covers the entire lease term and the number of miles you are likely to drive. Get every item of equipment listed on the lease. Otherwise, you could be charged for "missing" equipment at the end of the lease. Before you sign the deal, take a copy of the contract home and review it carefully away from any dealer pressure. Be alert for any charges that were not disclosed at the dealership, like conveyance, disposition, and preparation fees. Make sure you got credit for any trade-in. You do not have an automatic three-day right to cancel a lease after you sign it. When you finance a car, the finance charge must be stated as an Annual Percentage Rate (APR). There is no similar requirement for disclosing the cost of leases. "Lease rates" or "money factors" do not have standardized definitions and are not equivalent to an APR.

Auto Service Contracts

Dealers may try to sell you an auto service contract or "extended warranty" when you buy a new or used car. A warranty comes with a new car and is included in the original price of the vehicle. A service contract is sold separately and is a promise to pay for certain repairs or services. Service contracts are usually highprofit add-ons, costing hundreds to more than \$1,000. The service contract may duplicate warranty coverage you get from the manufacturer or dealer. Ask these questions:

- Does the dealer, the manufacturer, or an independent company back the service contract?
- What happens to your coverage if the dealer or administrator goes out of business?
- How are claims handled?
- Can you choose among several service dealers or repair centers or do you have to return to one dealer?
- Is your car covered if it breaks down on a trip or if you move out of town?
- Do you need prior authorization for repair work? Common repairs for parts like brakes and clutches generally are not included in service contracts. Watch out for exclusions that deny coverage for any reason and other terms that could cost extra when repairs are made. Failure to keep up manufacturer's recommendations for routine maintenance can void the service contract. The contract may prohibit you from taking your car to an independent station for routine maintenance or performing the work yourself.

Vehicle Repossessions

When you borrow money to buy a car, you should know that:

- The lender can repossess if you miss a payment or for any default (a violation of the contract).
- The lender can repossess without advance notice.
- After repossession, the lender might be able to accelerate, meaning the lender can require the borrower to pay off the entire balance of the loan in order for the borrower to get the vehicle back.
- The lender can sell the vehicle at auction.
- The lender might be able to sue the borrower for the deficiency if it sells the car for less than the borrower owes. This is true even in voluntary repossessions.
- The lender cannot commit a "breach of the peace," for example, breaking into a home or physically threatening someone, in the course of a repossession.
- If you know you're going to be late with a payment, talk to the lender to try to work things out.
 If the lender agrees to a delay or to modify the

contract, be sure you get the agreement in writing. Some states have laws that give consumers additional rights. Contact your state or local consumer protection office for more information (see page 70).

Renting a Car

Federal law does not cover short-term car and truck rentals, but some state laws do. Contact your state or local consumer protection office (see page 70) for information or to report a complaint.

- Collision Damage Waiver (CDW), in states that allow it, is an optional charge of \$9 to \$13 a day by the rental company. If you decline to pay extra for CDW, you accept responsibility for any damages. Rental companies also may sell loss of use and liability insurance. Check with your insurance agent in advance, so you do not duplicate coverage you already have.
- If you pay by credit card, some rental companies will place a hold or freeze on your account during the rental period.
- Carefully inspect the vehicle and its tires before renting.
- Check refueling policies and charges.

Credit and Sublease Brokers

These are con artists who prey on people who have bad credit and who cannot get car loans.

- "Credit brokers" promise to get a loan for you in exchange for a high fee. In many cases, the "broker" takes the fee and disappears.
- "Sublease brokers" charge a fee to arrange for you a "sublease" or "take over" someone else's car lease or loan. Such deals usually violate the original loan or lease agreement. Your car can be repossessed even if you've made all of your payments. You also might have trouble insuring your car.

Home

Home Improvement

Most home improvement loans are secured by a mortgage on your home. It's better not to finance expensive credit insurance (see page 15) or to consolidate other debts into this loan. Your home will be at risk for every extra dollar you borrow. If you don't make your payments, you could lose your home.

- Plan ahead. Know what you want or need to have done before contacting a contractor.
- Ask family and friends for recommendations.
- Get at least three written estimates from contractors who have come to your home to evaluate what needs to be done. Be sure the estimates are based on the same work so that you can make meaningful comparisons.
- Contact your local or state consumer agency and Better Business **Bureau for information** on contractors' licensing or registration requirements and complaint records. Some states require licensees to pass tests for competency and scrutinize licensees for financial solvency. Some states also have a fund to cover some financial losses that result from problems with licensed contractors.
- Get references and talk to people for whom the contractor has done similar work.
- Get the names of suppliers and ask if the contractor makes timely payments.

- building inspection department to check for permit and inspection requirements. Be wary if the contractor asks you to get the permit. It could mean the firm is not licensed.
- Be sure your contractor has the required personal liability, property damage and worker's compensation insurance for his/her workers and subcontractors. Check with your insurance company to find out if you are covered for any injury or damage that might occur.
- Insist on a complete written contract. Know exactly what work will be done, the quality of materials that will be used, warranties, timetables, the names of any subcontractors, the total price of the job and the schedule of payments.
- You have cancellation rights (usually three business days) in home improvement contracts.
 Cancellation rights entitle you to get out of the contract without penalty, although you may be liable for any benefit received. You may be covered under both state and federal law.
- Understand your payment options. Compare the cost of getting your own loan vs. contractor financing.
- Try to limit your down payment. Find out if your state laws specify that only a certain percentage of the total cost may be made as a down payment.

- Don't make final payment or sign an affidavit of final release until you are satisfied with the work and know that subcontractors and suppliers have been paid. State lien laws may allow unpaid subcontractors and/ or unpaid suppliers to attach your home.
- Check to see if state or local laws limit the amount by which the final bill can exceed the estimate, unless you have approved the increase.
- Pay by credit card when you can. Under federal and state law, in most cases, you have the right to assert any claims or defenses you have against the seller of the goods or services against the credit card company. This generally means that if the goods or services are defective, you can refuse to pay the credit card company until the problem is corrected.
- Be especially cautious if the contractor:
 - -comes door-to-door or seeks you out;
 - -just happens to have material left over from a recent job;
 - -tells you your job will be a "demonstration;"
 - -offers you discounts for finding him/her other customers;
 - -quotes a price that's out of line with other estimates;
 - -pressures you for an immediate decision;
 - -offers exceptionally long guarantees;

- -can only be reached by leaving messages with an answering service;
- -drives an unmarked van or has out-of-state plates on his/her vehicle; or
- -asks you to pay for the entire job up front.

Home Financing

When shopping for a mortgage to buy a house, educate yourself.

- Read the real estate section of your local newspaper to find out the current interest rates.
- Check the rates for 30-year mortgages, 15-year mortgages and adjustable rate mortgages. Ask the lending institution to explain the differences.
- Know your lending institution.
- Request information from the Federal Trade Commission (p. 114), the Federal Reserve Board (p. 114), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (p. 110).
- Visit the numerous web sites providing home buying information. Good gateways to these web sites are www.pueblo.gsa.gov and www.consumerworld.org. Click on housing and/or money.

Home Equity Lending

 Your first decision is whether you need a revolving line of credit or a one-time, closed end loan. A revolving line of credit enables the homeowner to choose when and how to borrow against the

- equity in the home. In a closed end loan, the homeowner receives a lump sum for a particular purpose, such as remodeling or tuition.
- Although a home equity loan might allow you to take tax deductions you could not take with other types of loans, your home will be at risk if you cannot make the monthly payments.
- When comparing home equity loan offers, ask:
 - -What is the minimum monthly payment?
 - -Is there a maximum?
 - -What is the annual percentage rate?
 - -If the interest rate is adjustable, how much can it increase at one time?
 - -Is there a maximum rate?
- Ask about annual fees or transaction fees.
 - -How large a credit line is available for a revolving line of credit?
 - -How long is the term of the closed end loan?
 - -What are the initiation fees for a closed end loan?

Home Equity Fraud

Some companies offering home equity loans are only interested in how much money they can make. To avoid becoming a victim of home equity fraud:

- Apply for a home equity loan through a bank first.
 Bank loans are likely to cost less than loans offered by finance companies.
- Be especially careful if responding to home solicitations. Many home salespeople are very skilled

- at persuading you to buy things you don't need or want.
- Read everything before you sign it.
- Keep a copy of everything you sign.

Reverse Mortgages

- If you own your home, a reverse mortgage loan will pay you in monthly advances or through a line of credit. Reverse mortgages convert home equity into cash with no repayment required for as long as borrowers live in their homes. Because you're drawing on the value of your home, there will be less equity for you and your heirs in the future.
- Because of the complex nature of reverse mortgages, you may wish to seek the advice of an attorney, financial advisor or accountant before taking out this type of loan.
- Interest rates on this type of loan may be higher and are charged on a compound basis. Application fees, points and closing costs also may be higher than other types of loans. Interest rates are not deductible on your income taxes until you repay the loan in full. There can be dramatic differences between reverse mortgages, so shop around.

For more information about home equity lending, fraud or reverse mortgages contact your state consumer protection office (see page 70), the HUD Housing Counseling Clearinghouse at 1-888-466-3487, the FTC (p.114), or the National Consumer Law Center (p. 127).

Avoiding Investment Fraud

Deceptive or fraudulent sales pitches for investments often misrepresent or leave out facts in order to promote fantastic profits with little risk. No financial investment is risk-free and a high rate of return means greater risk. Beware if a salesperson:

- Tells you to borrow money on a credit card, take out a mortgage on your home, or cash in your IRA to invest in commodities;
- Pressures you to invest immediately, and then sends an overnight courier service to pick up your check and give you forms to sign;
- Promises quick profits;
- Downplays the risk disclosure documents and statement, which are required by Federal law, as just a formality;
- Tells you to write false information on your account form, for example, to overstate your income;
- Sends information that is not printed on letterhead stationery or has typographical errors;
- Does not send your money promptly when you order the broker to close a trade and send you your balance;
- Offers to share inside information; or
- Uses words like "guarantee," "high return," "limited offer," or "as safe as a C.D."

Investing Wisely -Commodity Futures

Only commodity brokers registered with the U.S. Commodity **Futures Trading Commission** (CFTC) can sell exchangetraded futures contracts and options on futures to the public lawfully. The National Futures Association (NFA), a CFTCdesignated self-regulatory organization, has a toll-free hotline at 1-800-676-4NFA (4632) to verify registration and disciplinary history (including customer complaints) of futures/options firms and salespersons. From outside the United States, call 312-781-1410. See page 107 for how to contact CFTC and page 133 for NFA.

Securities

Before making a securities investment in stocks, bonds or mutual funds, you should get written financial information such as a prospectus or annual report. Select a broker or investment adviser who understands your financial objectives. Interview two or three to compare experience, education and professional background. Call the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (NASD) toll-free on 1-800-289-9999 to find out about the disciplinary history of the broker. Call your state securities regulator (see page 95) to see if the investment and the salesperson are registered in your state, and to obtain any disciplinary information.

- Understand how the broker or investment adviser is paid. What fees will you pay to purchase, sell or maintain the account?
- If you have a problem with your broker or your account, talk with the firm's

- manager. If you can't resolve the problem, contact the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (see page 115) or your state securities regulator (see page 95).
- Read magazines like Money, Kiplinger's Personal Finance and Fortune for investment advice.
- Visit the numerous web sites providing personal finance information. Good gateways to these web sites are www.pueblo.gsa.gov and www.consumerworld.org. Click on money.

Day Trading

Unlike longer term investments for college or retirement, day trading seeks profits based on short-term fluctuations in the prices of stocks. You gamble on whether the price of a stock will rise or fall. Unless you are extremely knowledgeable about stocks and how the stock market works, you should not engage in day trading. For more information, call the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (see page 115) or your state securities regulator (see page 95).

Utilities

Electricity

Most consumers get their electric service from a local private or public utility company or from a cooperative. The electric utility industry is restructuring, however, and in several states consumers will be able to select an electric supplier. Ask your state utility commission (page 99) for information about your own

state. Ask:

- Has our state restructured the electric industry?
- What protection do I have against slamming (unauthorized switching of providers)?
- Do you have consumer information to help me decide which service to purchase?
- Do you license sellers of electricity?
- Do you have a list of companies that can do business in our state?
- Where do I complain about unfair marketing, sales, and service practices?

If you have a choice in electric suppliers, ask:

- How much will it cost? How long can I depend on this rate?
- Who do I call if I have a problem with service?
- What is your experience in providing reliable service?
- Can I have a sample of a bill I might receive if I purchase electricity from your company?
- What are the terms and conditions of service?
- Do you have a local customer service office?
- Do you have a privacy protection policy?

Natural Gas

Call your state utility commission (page 99) for a list of licensed suppliers. **Ask companies:**

 Does your price include distribution and sales tax, and are there any other fees

- I will be charged that are not included in this price?
- What are the terms and conditions of the agreement?
- What information do I have to provide you to enroll me? Do you have a privacy policy?
- Are there fees if I cancel my agreement before it is up?What are they?
- What are the cancellation terms?
- What is the length of the agreement, and what happens when it is over?
- Do you have a local customer service office?

Water

The majority of consumers rely on local utilities to produce a safe and ample supply of water. Your local water agency is responsible for sending you an annual Consumer Confidence Report that should list the source of your water, what contaminants may be in the water, and information on the safety levels of contaminants and their effects on health. For more information call the **Environmental Protection** Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visit EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/safewater.

Telephone Services

Now you can choose your longdistance carrier as well as your local toll and/or local phone service if there is competition in your area. An increasing number of companies sell optional services such as voice mail, call waiting, caller ID, paging, and wireless service. The National Consumers League maintains a web page to help you understand all of the charges on your phone bills and help you recognize fraud: www.ncl.net.org/phonebill/ index.html.

Calling Plans and Other Services

Think first about how you use the telephone.

- Where do you call most often?
- What time of day or day of the week?
- Do you want to get messages and if so, do you need voice mail or will an answering machine do?
- Is it worth the cost for extra services like call waiting and caller ID?
- Do you need a wireless phone or pager?

With these answers, you can compare services and prices. You may want a package deal from one company or services from different companies.

- Find out how companies' services work, including whether there are minimum use, time-of-day or distance requirements, flat monthly fees, or special plans. For example, wireless service may be cheaper than regular local service if you don't make many calls.
- Get the information in writing and don't be pressured into an immediate decision.
- Make sure you're comparing similar plans and features to determine the best rates. The Telecommunications Research and Action Center, a nonprofit group, offers information

about residential and small business long-distance rates, and wireless service. ContactTRAC at P.O. Box 27279, Washington, DC 20005 or visit its web site at www.trac.org.

Pre-paid Calling Cards

Many drug and grocery stores sell pre-paid calling cards, and they are sold online, too. **Before buying one**, **know the**:

- per-minute rate;
- connection fee;
- maintenance fee; and
- · expiration date.

To avoid being slammed or crammed:

 Read fine print on contest entry forms and coupons. You could be agreeing to switch your

- a survey or pretend to be a government agency!
- Warn family members and employees. Be sure that only those authorized talk to a company about telephone service.
- Beware of "negative option notices." You'll be switched or signed up for optional services unless you say no.
- Look at your telephone bill carefully every month — especially the pages that show the details.

Fraudulent companies may switch your phone service or add new services to your bill as a result of your calling a pay-percall service (see page 13).

- ask your local phone company to switch you back to your original company at no charge;
- tell the original company you're switching back, and ask to be enrolled in your previous calling plan; and
- contact the company that slammed you, whose name and number is on the bill, to exercise your rights regarding those charges.

Generally, consumers can't be held liable for services they never agreed to buy. If you've been crammed:

- call the number that appears on the page where the charges are detailed:
- tell your local phone company, which provides the billing service, that you are disputing the charges and that you plan to deduct them from your bill payment; and
- if the service provider insists that the charges are valid, contact your local or state consumer protection agency (see page 70) or state public utilities department (see page 99).

Your phone service cannot be shut off for refusal to pay for unauthorized services. For more information about FCC rules, call 1-888-225-5322 or go to its web site at www.fcc.gov and click on Consumer Info.

Pay-Per Call Services

You can get everything from recorded sports scores to live psychic readings by calling 900 numbers that provide information or entertainment services.

Don't be Slammed or Crammed

Slamming is the illegal act of switching your long distance, local toll or local telephone company without your permission. On your phone bill, you may find:

- · a different company name or
- phone charges that are much higher than normal.

Cramming is when companies add charges to your telephone bill for optional services you never agreed to such as voice mail or club memberships. You may not notice these monthly charges because they're relatively small — \$5 to \$30 dollars — and look like your regular phone charges.

phone service or buy optional services.

Companies may falsely claim to be your regular phone company and offer some type of discount plan or bill consolidation. They may also say they're taking

Resolving Slamming or Cramming Problems

Under Federal Communications Commission rules, no telecommunications carrier can arrange to switch your service to its own without verifying that you agreed. If you've been slammed: These numbers are sometimes also used to conduct surveys or contests, or for charitable fundraising. The "information provider," the company or organization you're calling, sets its own price for the service, and usually bills you through your local telephone company.

Consumer Rights

The federal Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Resolution Act requires advertisements for payper-call services to tell you:

- the cost of the call. It may be a flat rate, a per-minute charge, or calculated on some other basis. The ad must also state the most you can be charged, if that can be determined, and any minimum or additional charges that you might have to pay;
- the odds of winning or the factors that determine your chance of winning any sweepstakes, prizes or awards, and how you can enter any contest without calling the 900 number;
- if it's a private company offering information about Federal programs and that the company is not endorsed, approved or authorized by the government; and
- for services directed primarily to children under the age of 18, that they need their parents' consent to call the number.

The rules bar advertising payper-call services directed to children under age 12 unless they are for legitimate educational services.

If the charge for pay-per-call services will be more than \$2, you should hear the following

information when you dial the number:

- The company or organization name and a description of services;
- the cost of the call;
- a notice that you can hang up without any charge within a certain time after a signal. You can't be charged for listening to the preamble; and
- a warning to kids under 18 that they need their parents' consent to stay on the line.

Toll-Free Numbers and Pay-Per-Call

Generally, 800, 888, or 877 numbers are toll-free. However, charges for pay-per-call services through 800, 888, and 877 numbers are allowed if you:

 sign a written contract that describes the service and how much it will cost, or; agree verbally providing your credit card, charge account, debit or calling card number to pay for the charges.

It's illegal to be connected to a 900 number pay-per-call service through a toll-free number, or for a pay-per-call service to call you back collect after you dialed a number that you thought was toll-free. Both the FCC and the FTC have rules concerning pay-per-call numbers. For contact information see pages 113 and 114

You have the right to dispute pay-per-call charges if:

- you didn't make the call;
- the amount you're billed is incorrect;
- the services were misrepresented;
- you are charged for calling a toll-free number without an agreement; or
- a credit you're owed doesn't show up on the bill.

Pay-Per-Call Charges: Protect Yourself

- Don't make the call if you don't know the cost.
- Be wary of promises for free gifts or prizes.
- Find out how free minutes really work.
- Watch out for phony offers of financial assistance.
- Don't stay on hold, you'll be charged for that time.
- Don't respond to messages to call pay-per-call numbers.
 Fraudulent pay-per-call services may leave messages pretending to be calling about a family emergency, a prize or a debt.
- If you use a pay-per-call service, look for new unauthorized monthly charges on your phone bill. (See page 12, cramming.)

Your local and long-distance telephone service cannot be disconnected if you refuse to pay for disputed pay-per-call charges.

- Act promptly you generally have 60 days to dispute the charges. If they appear on your phone bill, call the local or toll-free number that is listed on that page.
- Note who you spoke to and what was said.
- Follow up with a letter, keeping a copy that explains the problem and confirms your conversation.
- Deduct the charges you are disputing and pay the rest of your bill by the due date. You should hear back from the company within 40 days and the problem should be resolved within 90 days.
- If the charges appear on your credit card bill, follow the instructions on the bill for disputes. The information provider can pursue the matter through a collection agency or other

legal means, including reporting the debt to a credit bureau. If you're contacted by a collection agency, explain in writing why you dispute the charges. You can also put a written explanation in your credit report.

You may have other rights according to state law. Check with your state or local consumer protection agency (see page 70) or state utilities department (see page 99).

If the dispute concerns information services provided through a number that may not be covered by the pay-per-call rules, such as foreign phone numbers, find out if you have any protection under state law. You may have to work out a payment agreement with your long-distance company to avoid losing your service. To prevent 900 number calls or foreign calls from being made, you can request "blocking" from your local phone company for free or for a reasonable charge.

Foreign Phone Numbers Information and entertainment services can get around pay-per-call rules by using foreign phone numbers. Most foreign phone numbers require dialing 011 first, but some are dialed just like long-distance numbers in this country, beginning with 1 and then a three-digit area code such as 809 (the Dominican Republic) or 758 (St. Lucia). If you don't know if a number is domestic or foreign, call the operator and ask.

Money and Credit

Loans

A number of Federal state and local agencies regulate banks and other financial institutions. Check the table of contents or the index for specific information about how to reach these offices by mail, fax, telephone, E-mail and through the Internet. For information about: mortgage loans see Home Financing (page 9); home improvement loans see Home Improvement (page 8); car loans see Buying A Car: New or Used (page 4).

Payday Loans

In a typical payday loan, a consumer would write a personal check for \$115 to borrow \$100 for two weeks (until payday). The annual percentage rate

State chartered banks that are not members of the Federal Reserve System are regulated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. See page 113.

Federally chartered credit unions are regulated by the National Credit Union Administration. See page 115. State chartered banks and trust companies that are members of the Federal Reserve System are regulated by the Federal Reserve System. See page 114.

Federal savings and loans and Federal savings banks are regulated by the Office of Thrift Supervision. See page 112. Banks with national in the name or N.A. after the name are regulated by the Comptroller of the Currency, U.S. Department of the Treasury. See page 111.

State chartered banks are regulated by State banking authorities. See page 87.

(APR) in this typical example is 390%. In 19 states payday loans are illegal. **Avoid payday loans by:**

- asking for more time to pay a bill,
- seeking a traditional small loan, or
- using a cash advance on your credit card.

For more information about payday loans, contact your state banking authority (p. 87), Consumer Federation of America (p. 126) or U.S. Public Interest Research Group (p. 128).

Credit Insurance

Creditors have an incentive to sell credit insurance because they are the primary beneficiaries. They make money from the sale of insurance and they make money when you pay the insurance premium as part of your loan. Four common abuses in selling credit insurance are:

- involuntary or pressured sales,
- overcharging,
- incomplete coverage, and
- post-claim ineligibility determination.

For more information, contact the National Consumer Law Center (p. 127).

Credit Access and Use Equal Rights

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act guarantees you equal rights in dealing with anyone who regularly offers credit, including banks, finance companies, stores, credit card companies and credit unions. A creditor is someone to whom you owe money. When you apply for credit, a creditor may not:

- ask about or consider your sex, race, national origin or religion;
- ask about your marital status or your spouse, unless you are applying for a joint account or relying on your spouse's income or you live in a community property state (Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Washington);
- ask about your plans to have or raise children;
- refuse to consider reliable public assistance income or regularly received alimony or child support; or
- discount or refuse to consider income because of your sex or marital status or because it is from parttime work or retirement benefits.

You have the right to:

- have credit in your birth name, your first name and your spouse's last name, or your first name and a combined last name;
- have a co-signer other than your spouse if one is necessary;
- keep your own accounts after you change your name or marital status or retire, unless the creditor has evidence you are unable or unwilling to pay;

Credit Insurance

It is almost always better to insure yourself against income loss or death by purchasing regular life or disability insurance instead of credit insurance. When you finance cars, consumer goods, mobile home sales, and residential mortgages, salespeople may try to sell you four types of credit insurance:

- credit property: insures against damage or loss to whatever item secures the loan
- credit life: pays the loan balance in case of death
- credit disability/accident and health: temporarily makes loan payments in case of accident or ill health
- involuntary loss of income: temporarily makes loan payments if you're laid off
- know why a credit application is rejected; the creditor must give you the specific reasons or tell you of your right to find out the reasons if you ask within 60 days;
- have accounts shared with your spouse reported in both your names; and

If you want to be removed from lists for unsolicited credit and insurance offers, ask the credit reporting agency (see page 18 for the phone numbers of national credit bureaus) for a form to complete that will permanently keep your name off the lists drawn from credit file information.

 See page 25 for Reducing Unwanted Mail, Telephone, and Email Solicitations. know how much it will cost to borrow money. The Truth in Lending Act requires a lender to inform you of the cost to borrow, so that you can compare the cost and terms of credit offered by various lenders.

Credit Cards

Choosing a Credit Card

Consider and compare all terms, including the following, before you select a card:

- Annual Percentage Rate (APR) —the cost of credit as a yearly rate.
- Free or Grace Period —
 allows you to avoid any
 finance charge by paying
 your balance in full before
 the due date. If there is no
 free period, you will pay a
 finance charge from the
 date of the transaction,
 even if you pay your entire
 balance when you receive
 your bill.
- Fees and Charges —most issuers charge an annual fee; some also might charge a fee for a cash advance or if you fail to make a payment on time or go over your credit limit.
- Credit Card Insurance is unnecessary because it duplicates protections you already have under law in case your credit card is lost or stolen. (See page 16, Using a Credit Card.)

If you pay bills in full each month, the size of the annual fee or other fees will be more important. If you carry a balance, the APR and the method used to figure your balance are key.

- Get all terms and fees in writing, including whether a deposit is required.
- Apply directly to the card issuer. Don't give money to a company that offers to get you a credit card for a fee. You may not get a card or your money back.
- Beware of "credit cards" that only allow you to buy from their own catalogs.
- Avoid companies that promise instant credit or guarantee you a credit card "even if you have bad credit history." No one can guarantee you credit in advance.
- Be cautious of offers for secured credit cards. These cards usually require you to set aside money in a separate bank account in an amount equal to the line of credit on the card to guarantee that you will pay the credit card debt. Some of these offers advertise that secured cards can be used to repair a bad credit record, but no matter how well you handle this account, your payment history on your past debts still will be taken into consideration when you apply for credit, employment or housing.

Using a Credit Card Protect your credit record.

- Pay bills promptly to keep finance charges low and to protect your credit rating.
- Keep track of your charges and don't exceed your credit limit.
- Report any change of address prior to moving, so that you receive bills promptly.

If your card is lost or stolen, you are not liable for any charges if you report the loss before the card is used. If the card is used before you report it missing, the most you will owe is \$50.

Credit Billing and Disputes

The Fair Credit Billing Act applies to credit card and charge accounts and to overdraft checking. It can be used for:

- billing errors;
- unauthorized use of your account;
- goods or services charged to your account but not received or not provided as promised; and
- charges for which you request an explanation or written proof of purchase.

Using a Debit or Check Card

Using an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) or debit card and a personal identification number (PIN), consumers can withdraw cash, make deposits, or transfer funds between accounts and pay for retail purchases. Although a debit card looks like a credit card, the money for the purchase is transferred immediately from your bank account to the store's account. Some ATMs charge a fee if you are not a member of their network or are making a transaction at a remote location. ATMs must disclose the fee on the terminal screen or on a sign next to the screen. Purchases made with a debit card are handled in one of two ways: you enter your personal identification number or you sign for the purchase. Ask for a debit card that must be used with a PIN to make it harder for thieves to use your lost or stolen cards or account

Preventing Credit and Debit/Check Card Fraud

- Sign cards when they arrive, so no one can forge your signature on the cards and use them.
- Keep a record of your card numbers and expiration dates and the phone number of the card issuer in a safe place. If your card is stolen or missing, notify the card company immediately.
- Don't give your credit card number over the phone to unfamiliar companies or to people who say they need it to "verify" your identity in order to give you a prize.
- **Destroy carbons** and incorrect charge slips.
- Draw a line through blank spaces on charge slips. Do not sign a blank charge slip.
- Keep copies of all sales slips. Open credit card bills promptly and compare the sales slips with the charges on your bill.
- Report billing errors and unauthorized charges to your credit card company right away.

numbers. Keep your PIN a secret. Don't write your PIN on the card or on a slip of paper kept with your card. Take your ATM receipt after completing a transaction. Reconcile ATM receipts with bank statements promptly. When you use a debit card for a point-of-sale purchase, these purchases will be shown on your periodic statement from your bank account. If there is an error on your account, contact the issuer of the card (for example, the oil company) at the address or phone number the company provided. When you use an electronic funds transfer, federal law does not give you the right to stop payment. You must resolve the problem with the seller. Stored-value cards contain cash value stored electronically on the card itself. Stored-value cards and the transactions you make using them may not be covered by the Electronic Funds Transfer Act, which means you may not be covered for loss or misuse of the card.

Protect Your Credit and Debit/Check Card Rights

- Write to the creditor or card issuer within 60 days after the first bill containing the disputed charge is mailed to you. (Even if more than 60 days have passed since you were billed for the item, you still might be able to dispute the charge if you only recently found out about the problem.)
- Send your letter to the address provided on the bill; do not send the letter with your payment.
- Be specific. In your letter, give your name and account number, the date and amount of the charge disputed, and a complete explanation of why you are disputing the charge.
- To be sure your letter is received, and so you will have a record, you might wish to send it by certified mail, with a return receipt requested.

If you follow these requirements, the creditor or card issuer must acknowledge your letter in writing within 30 days after it is received and conduct an investigation within 90 days. While the bill is being disputed and investigated, you need not pay the amount in dispute. The creditor or card issuer may not take action to collect the disputed amount, including reporting the amount as delinquent, and may not close or restrict your account. If there was an error or you do not owe the amount, the creditor or card issuer must credit your account and remove any finance charges or late fees relating to the amount not owed. For any amount still owed, you have the right to an explanation and copies of documents proving you owe the money. If the bill is correct, you must be told in writing what you owe and why. You will owe the amount disputed plus any finance charges. You may ask for copies of relevant documents.

See page 23 for Tips for Shopping Smart and Avoiding Fraud.

Debit/Check Cards

Report a lost or stolen ATM or debit/check card to the issuer immediately.

- If you report an ATM card missing before it's used without your permission, you are not responsible for any unauthorized withdrawals.
- Federal regulations limit your liability to \$50 if you report the loss within two business days after you realize your card is missing, and to \$500 if you report the loss between 2 and 60 days.
- Under Federal law you could lose all the money in your bank account and the unused portion of your line of credit established for overdrafts if you fail to report an unauthorized transfer or withdrawal within 60 days after your bank statement is mailed to you.
- Self-imposed industry rules limit your liability to zero if you report the loss within two business days, and to \$50 if you report it more than two business days after realizing your card is missing.

Protect Your Credit Report

The Fair Credit Reporting Act controls how your credit history is kept, used and shared among lenders. It is designed to promote accuracy and ensure the privacy of the information used in credit reports. The three major national credit bureaus have credit files on millions of consumers nationwide. Their toll-free numbers are:

Equifax 1-800-685-1111 Experian 1-800-682-7654 TransUnion 1-800-916-8800 See page 27 for Consumer Privacy and IdentityTheft.

Anyone who takes action against you in response to a report supplied by a credit reporting agency (CRA) -such as denying your application for credit, insurance, or employment- must give you the name, address, and telephone number of the CRA that provided the report.

- You have a right to know what is in your credit report, including medical information and, usually, the sources of the information. Make sure your report is accurate.
- Get your report for free if a company takes adverse action against you based on the report and you request your report within 60 days of receiving the notice of the action.
- Request one free report a year if you can prove that you are unemployed and plan to look for a job within 60 days, if you are on welfare, or if your report is inaccurate because of fraud. Otherwise a CRA may charge you up to \$8 for a copy of your report.

If you find inaccurate or incomplete information in your report:

- contact both the CRA and the company that provided the information to the CRA.
- tell the CRA in writing what information you believe is inaccurate. The information provider must investigate and report the results to the CRA. If the

- information is incorrect, it must notify all nationwide CRAs to also correct your file.
- if the reinvestigation does not solve your dispute with the company, ask that your statement of the dispute be included in your file. A notice of your dispute must be included anytime the CRA reports the item.

Who Has Access to My Report?

An employer or a prospective employer can only get your credit report if you give written consent. Creditors, employers, or insurers cannot get a report that includes medical information without your approval. Only people with a legitimate business need can get a copy of your report.

Negative Information

A CRA can report negative information for seven years, and bankruptcy information for ten years. Information about a lawsuit or an unpaid judgment against you can be reported for seven years or until the statute of limitations runs out, whichever is longer.

When Your Debt is Out of Control - Credit Counseling

Counseling services provide assistance to individuals having difficulty budgeting their money and/or meeting necessary monthly expenses. Many organizations, including credit unions, cooperative extension services, family service centers and religious organizations, offer free or low-cost credit counseling. The National Foundation for Consumer Credit (NFCC)

has 1,400 members that provide money management techniques, debt payment plans and educational programs to help consumers learn to budget and use credit wisely. Many of its members are locally managed, nonprofit agencies operating under the name Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS). To locate the nearest NFCC member, call toll-free, 24 hours a day, 1-800-388-2227 or visit its web site at www.nfcc.org. Myvesta.org is the nation's first, nonprofit, Internet-based debt counseling service. It assists families and individuals with debt, credit, money and financial problems through its web site at www.myvesta.org, as well as through one-on-one counseling at 1-800-680-DEBT.

Debt Collection

The Fair Debt Collection
Practices Act applies to
those who collect debts owed
to creditors for personal, family
and household debts, including
car loans, mortgages, charge
accounts and money owed for
medical bills. A debt collector is
someone hired to collect money
owed by you. A debt collector
may not:

- contact you at unreasonable times or places, for example, before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m., unless you agree, or at work if you tell the debt collector your employer disapproves;
- contact you after you write a letter to the collection agency telling them to stop, except to notify you if the debt collector or creditor intends to take some specific action;
- contact your friends, relatives, employer or others, except to find out

- where you live and work, or tell such people that you owe money;
- harass you by, for example, threats of harm to you or your reputation, use of profane language or repeated telephone calls;
- make any false statement, including that you will be arrested; or
- threaten to have money deducted from your paycheck or to sue you, unless the collection agency or creditor intends to do so and it is legal.

If you are contacted by a debt collector, you have a right to a written notice, sent within 5 days after you are first contacted, telling you the amount owed, the name of the creditor, and what action to take if you believe you don't owe the money. If you believe you do not owe the money or don't owe the amount claimed, contact the creditor in writing and send a copy to the debt collection agency with a letter telling them not to contact you. If you do owe the money or part of it, contact the creditor to arrange for payment. To file a complaint, contact your state or local consumer protection agency (see page 70) and the FTC (see page 114).

Credit Repair

Credit repair companies advertise that they can erase bad credit and create a new credit identity legally, all for a hefty fee. Don't believe it. No one can legally remove accurate and timely negative information from a credit report. No credit repair company can do anything you can't do for yourself for free. Only time, hard work, and a personal debt repayment plan will improve your credit report. Under the Credit Repair Organizations Act, credit repair

companies cannot require you to pay until they have completed promised services. They must:

- provide a copy of the "Consumer Credit File Rights Under State and Federal Law" before you sign a contract;
- give you a written contract that spells out your rights and obligations; and
- give you three days to cancel without paying any fees.

Some credit repair companies promise to help you establish a whole new credit identity. You can be prosecuted for mail or wire fraud if you use the mail or telephone to apply for credit with false information. It is a federal crime to make false statements on a loan or credit application, to misrepresent your social security number, and to obtain an Employer Identification Number from the Internal Revenue Service under false pretences. Your state may have a law strictly regulating credit repair companies. Contact your local consumer affairs office and state attorney general (see page 70), or the Federal Trade Commission (see page 114) if you have lost money to credit repair scams. The National Fraud Information Center accepts consumer complaints about telemarketing and Internet credit repair offers at 1-800-876-7060.

Insurance

When buying insurance of any kind - car, homeowners, renters, life, fire, flood - shop carefully. Check with your state's insurance department (page 91) to make sure the company is reputable and financially strong. See page 20 for health care coverage.

- Make sure the insurance company is licensed and covered by the state's guaranty fund, which pays claims in case of default.
- Find out how the insurer's creditworthiness is rated by agencies such as Standard & Poor's, A.M. Best Co. or Moody's Investors Services. Most public libraries have copies of these reports.
- Make sure you receive a written policy within 60 days after you paid your first premium. This ensures that the agent forwarded the premium to the insurance company.

For information, contact American Council of Life Insurers (page 129), Insurance Information Institute (page 132), Consumer Federation of America (page 126) and National Association of Insurance Commissioners (page 132). Visit these web sites: www.pueblo.gsa.gov, insure.com and consumerworld.org (click on money).

To avoid fraud:

- Be wary about buying insurance from door-todoor or telephone sales people.
- Be wary if, after any kind of accident, a stranger contacts you to offer "quick cash" or to recommend a particular medical clinic, doctor or attorney. Report such contact to your police department.
- Protect your insurance identification numbers as you would your credit card numbers.
- Carry a disposable camera in your glove compartment. If you are in an accident,

take as many pictures as possible of the damage and of all the people involved. Get any passengers' names and telephone numbers along with the driver's license.

If you suspect fraud, call the National Insurance Crime Bureau's hotline at (800) TEL-NICB (835-6422). For more information, check out www. insurancefraud.org.

Health Care

Most consumers have health care coverage from their employer, others from government programs including Medicare, Medicaid, or the Veterans Administration. Even those who have insurance have to pay for some services such as prescription drugs or care from a specialist. Some people who are not insured have to pay for all of their own care.

- run by health maintenance organizations (HMOs) or preferred provider organizations (PPOs). Ask your state insurance department (page 91) for information to help compare plans and know how to complain.
- Medicare beneficiaries can choose a Medicare HMO. The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) offers Medicare Compare, an online computer database at www.medicare.gov. You can use this service to compare HMO benefits in your area. For other information about Medicare, call 1-800 MEDI-CARE.
- For information about nursing homes and other elder care services in your state, call the ElderCare Locator (page 109).

If you do not have insurance, look in your phone book under Medicaid, Social Services, Medical Assistance, Human Services, or Community Service. Or call 1-800-633-4227 to find the right office in your state.

Choosing a Doctor

If you are part of a managed care plan, you will be given a list of providers from which to choose. You can also "go outside of the plan," but you may have to pay a portion or all of the costs.

- Talk to friends and associates for recommendations.
- State medical and other professional societies often provide lists of providers who have been licensed or certified in your state. Check with your state or local occupational and professional licensing board (page 70) about licensing of doctors, dentists, and other providers. It can also provide information about how to complain.

Choosing a Managed Care Plan

If you have a choice among plans, **ask**:

- Do I have the right to go to any doctor, hospital or clinic I choose?
- Does the plan cover home care or nursing home care?
- · Can I go to any pharmacy?
- What is the deductible? Are there any co-payments?
- Are specialists, including dentists, covered?
- Does the plan cover all medications my physician may prescribe?

Using a computer to buy online through the Internet is fast becoming a convenient way to shop for many consumers. As with making a purchase at a conventional store, on the phone or by mail, you will want to fully understand the seller's policies and check out its reputation before you buy.

 What do I do if I want to complain about the service or a doctor? Is private arbitration mandatory?

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) evaluates and accredits HMOs. It looks at quality, whether the HMO provides appropriate care, the credentials of doctors and other providers, member rights and responsibilities, preventive care services, and medical record keeping.

 To check if your HMO has received NCQA accreditation, call 1-888-275-7585. To find out what plans have been accredited in your state and to get a report card on your plan, go to the NCQA web site at www.ncqa.org.

Another organization, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations accredits hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care organizations.

 File complaints online at www.jcaho.org or call 1-800-994-6610 for information.

Information sources

For information to complement, not replace, what you receive from your physician, pharmacist, or other professional, here are some helpful web sites: www.pueblo.gsa.gov, www.healthfinder.gov, www.ama-assn.org,www.nejm.org, www.intelihealth.com and www.intelihealth.com and www.ihealthcoalition.org. You can also get information from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (page 109) or your state health department.

Shopping from Home

You can order all kinds of products and services from companies in other states, or even in other countries, from the comfort of your own home. But use caution and know your consumer rights when you do business long-distance.

Consumer Rights

When you order something by mail, phone, fax or computer, the Federal Trade Commission Mail or Telephone Order Merchandise Trade Regulation Rule requires the company to:

- ship the merchandise within the time promised or, if no specific delivery time was stated, within 30 days of receiving your order;
- notify you if the shipment cannot be made on time and give you the choice of waiting longer or getting a refund; and
 - cancel your order and return your payment (or credit your account if you charged the purchase) if the new shipping date cannot be met, unless you agree to another delay.

If you applied for a charge account with the merchant at the same time that you placed your order, the company has an extra 20 days to **ship** the merchandise to allow time for processing your application.

Exceptions

The rule only applies to the first shipment of magazine subscriptions and other merchandise that comes repeatedly. And it does not apply to orders for services (for example, photo finishing), sales of seeds and growing plants, collect-ondelivery (C.O.D.) orders, and transactions that are covered by the FTC Negative Option Rule, such as book and music clubs.

Additional Protections

There may also be laws or regulations in your state that apply to orders by mail, telephone, fax or computer. To find out, contact your state or local consumer protection agency.

Telemarketing

The FTC's Telemarketing Sales Rule requires telemarketers to:

While federal and state laws may apply if a consumer in the U.S. deals by phone, mail or computer with a company in another country, it may be difficult to pursue claims. Be especially careful in cross-border transactions.

- disclose the total cost and other terms of sale before you make any payment for the goods or services;
- tell you if they don't allow refunds, exchanges or cancellations;

- provide the odds of winning a prize, inform you that no purchase is necessary, and tell you how to get instructions for entering without buying anything; and
- provide the seller's name, disclose that it's a sales call, and tell you exactly what they're trying to sell.

It's **illegal** for telemarketers to:

- misrepresent what they're offering;
- call before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m.;
- threaten, intimidate or harass consumers, or call again if you ask them not to; or
- request advance payment to help repair your credit record, recover money you lost to other telemarketers, or help you get credit or loans.

This **FTC rule applies** when you:

- receive a call from a telemarketer in another state or country or
- make a call to a company in another state or country in response to a mail solicitation.

The FTC rule does not apply:

- when you call to order from a catalog or in response to an ad on television or radio, or in a magazine or newspaper (with some exceptions);
- to solicitations you received by fax or computer for goods or services; or
- to certain types of businesses, including nonprofit organizations, investment brokers and advisors, banks, and financial institutions

Additional Protections

Under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, Federal Communications Commission rules limit telemarketing calls to between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. and require telemarketers to maintain "Do Not Call" lists of consumers who have asked not to be called again. FCC rules also prohibit:

 automatic dialing machines and prerecorded voice message devices from calling emergency phone lines, guest or patient rooms in a hospital, nursing home or similar establishment, paging or cellular phone numbers or

- any service for which the person called will be charged for the call;
- prerecorded voice message devices from calling residential phone lines unless it's an emergency or the person being called has agreed in advance;
- unsolicited advertisements from being sent by fax to either a residence or a business; and
- prerecorded calls using automatic dialing machines from tying up your phone line for more than 5 seconds (or 25 seconds depending on your local telephone exchange) after you hang up.

These FCC rules apply no matter whether the calls are made within a state or between states. Some states have registration and other requirements for telemarketers who solicit their residents. Check with your state or local consumer protection agency (see page 70).

Youth Peddling

Selling themselves as programs to help youth, for-profit companies are scamming consumers who believe they are giving money to legitimate charities.

It is illegal to use the mail as part of a plan based on fraud or misrepresentation to steal money. This includes:

- · sending solicitations to consumers;
- receiving consumers' payments;
- transmitting information from one company location to another;
- using private or commercial interstate delivery services, including to send lottery solicitations or tickets across state lines or from another country into the United States; and
- sending mail that looks like it's from a government agency when it isn't, or that looks like an invoice when nothing was ordered, unless it clearly states that it is not a bill but only a sales solicitation.

For more information, contact the U.S. Postal Service, page 116.

The enterprises recruit young people to sell price-inflated goods because consumers tend to show good will toward young salespersons and anti-drug and youth empowerment programs. (See page 24, charities.)

- If you are solicited by youth selling items like candy and magazine subscriptions door-to-door, ask for identification verifying the name, address and purpose.
- If the representative can't provide the information, ask them to leave. Report suspicious people to your local police department and or contact your state labor department (child labor division).
- If you are satisfied with the information provided, don't feel pressured to make a purchase or contribution.

Cancellation Rights

- State and federal laws may give you the right to cancel purchases made in your home of \$25.00 or more.
- The salesperson must tell you about your right to cancel the sale and give you two dated copies of a cancellation form showing the salesperson's name and address and explaining your right to cancel.
- To cancel, sign and date one of the cancellation notices provided to you.
 Send the notice by certified mail before midnight of the 3rd business day following the sale;
 Saturday is considered a business day but Sunday and legally recognized holidays are not. Keep the

- other notice of cancellation for your records.
- If you were not provided with a notice of cancellation form at the time of the sale, your three days don't start running until after you receive such notice from the seller. You may also write your own letter to cancel the order.
- Once you have canceled you are entitled to a refund within 10 days. The seller must also notify you of the date for product pick up, and return any trade-ins given as down payment.
- the seller must pick up the product within 20 days. If the seller does not pick up the product or provide a refund, you can keep the product until the seller complies, without any payment obligation.
- If you paid by credit card, canceled the contract within 3 days, have not yet paid the credit card bill and still have a problem getting a refund, dispute the charges with your credit card company.

No Cancellation If....

- You may not cancel the sale if you signed any documents waiving your right to cancel.
- You may not be able to cancel the sale if you wait too long before you cancel.
- You may not be able to cancel the sale if the product can't be returned in substantially the same condition in which you received it.

Tips for Shopping Smart and Avoiding Fraud

The most common problems you might encounter when shopping on the phone, online or by mail order are delayed delivery, out of stock items, incorrect items shipped, damaged items received and price changes. To avoid these problems:

- Know who you are dealing with. If the company isn't familiar to you, check it out with your local or state consumer protection agency (see page70) and the Better Business Bureau (see page 117).
- Keep records. Write down the company name, mailing address, web site, or e-mail address, phone number, description of what you ordered, date, amount you paid, how you paid (check, money order, charge, etc.) and how you delivered your payment (mail, courier service, provided credit card number on phone or online, etc.).
- Note the delivery period.
 Keep any advertisements or
 materials that show a
 specific delivery time, or
 write the delivery time in
 your records if one was
 promised.
- Keep track of your order. If it's late, it is your choice whether to wait longer or cancel. If you cancel, your money must be refunded within 7 days (or your account must be credited within one billing cycle if you charged the order). The company can't substitute a merchandise credit for a refund.
- When you use a credit card to pay for products or services, you have a

- right to dispute the charges if the items were not delivered or were misrepresented. See page 18.
- Never send cash you won't have any proof of payment.
- Don't act immediately.
 High pressure sales tactics are a danger sign of fraud.
 Get all the information and consider it carefully.
- Don't believe promises of easy money. No one can legitimately claim you'll make big earnings from business opportunities, promise high returns on investments, or guarantee that you will win a lottery or sweepstakes.
- Be careful what information you provide. Give your credit card, debit card, or bank account number only if you're paying for a purchase using that account -never to verify your identity. Don't provide your social security number unless you're applying for credit or employment. Using your personal information, crooks can steal from you and impersonate you to steal from others. (See privacy, page 27).
- Do not do business with an unfamiliar company whose only address is a post office box. The company may be nothing but a mail drop that will give you little or nothing for

- your money and will be difficult or impossible to locate if you later have a complaint.
- Be wary of requests to send your payment by private courier or wire service. The company may be trying to avoid detection by postal inspectors or to get your money before you have a chance to change your mind.
- Do not be taken in by lotteries, pyramid schemes, multi-level marketing schemes, or companies that ask for

- a fraudulent scheme for a fee. There is no charge for filing a complaint with a government agency.
- Walk away or hang up when you hear the following: "Sign now or the price will increase;" "You have been specially selected...;" "You have won...;" "All we need is your credit card (or bank account) number—for identification only;" "All you pay for is postage, handling, taxes...;" "Make money in your spare time—quaran-

CHARITIES

- Give only to charities you know. Some con artists use names similar to well-known charities or pretend to be raising money for state or local law enforcement agencies.
- Ask for written information, including how much of the money raised is actually used for charitable purposes.
- Check with your secretary of state to find out if a charity is registered to solicit in your state. (See page 22, youth peddling.)

payment in advance, especially for employment referrals, credit repair, or providing a loan or credit card.

 Beware of recovery services. These scams try to take your last dime by falsely offering to get money back that you lost to teed income...;" "We really need you to buy magazines (a water purifier, a vacation package, office products) from us because we can earn 15 extra credits...;" "I just happen to have some leftover material from a job down the street ...;" "Be your own boss! Never work for anyone else again. Just send in \$50 for your supplies and...;" "A new car! A trip to Hawaii! \$2,500 in cash! Yours, absolutely free! Take a look at our...;" "Your special claim number entitles you to join our

Sweepstakes

Don't pay if it's free or you have won. It's another danger sign of fraud if you are asked to pay a fee to get something free, claim a prize or win a vacation. If you really won a sweepstakes, you pay taxes directly to the government, not through the company.

Reducing Unwanted Mail, Telephone or Online Solicitations

- Tell telemarketers who call you to put you on their "Do Not Call" lists and note the call. If a telemarketer calls again, note of the date and report it to the proper authorities.
- Contact the Direct Marketing Association, which operates three free services to remove consumers from DMA members' telemarketing lists, mail lists and email lists. See DMA on page 131.
- Tell companies you do business with, including those online, to remove your name from customer lists that they may rent or sell to other marketers.
- Look for information about how to opt out of marketing lists on companies' sales materials, order forms and web sites.
- Tell all marketers not to contact you again.

sweepstakes...;" or "We just happen to be in your area and have toner for your copy machine at a reduced price."

If you can't resolve your problem by working directly with the company, contact your state or local consumer protection agency for assistance (page 70). Report possible violations of FTC rules to that agency at the address on page 114. If the order was placed by mail, report the problem to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service by calling 1-800-654-8896. While federal agencies don't usually act on individual complaints, this information helps them identify patterns of abuse and take appropriate action.

Reporting Fraud

Reporting fraud promptly improves your chances of recovery and helps law enforcement authorities stop scams before others are victimized. Start by contacting your state or local consumer agency for advice and assistance. Report suspected violations of FTC rules to the FTC Consumer Response Center, Washington, DC 20580, 202-326-2222 or send

an e-mail to crc@ftc.gov with all of the details. For violations of FCC rules, send a letter, along with copies of bills, correspondence or other documentation, to FCC, Common Carrier Bureau, Consumer Complaints, Mail Stop 1600A2, Washington, DC 20554. For mail fraud call the Postal Crime Hotline at 1-800-654-8896.

For advice about telemarketing fraud and to report it, contact the National Fraud Information Center operated by the National Consumers League, a nonprofit consumer organization. Call 1-800-876-7060 or visit the web site at www.fraud.org.

Smart Shopping Online

Here are some specific tips (in addition to those above) for buying online:

- If the seller is unfamiliar, read more about the company, often found in a section on the website called "About Us."
- reliable endorsement logos or seals on its homepage, such as one from the Better Business Bureau. (Of course, this is only an indication of the seller's reputability, not a guarantee.)

- To see how other consumers rated the shopping experience at many online stores, check BizRate.
 [www.bizrate.com]
- Check the methods and prices for shipping. A low sale price may no longer be a bargain after adding on high shipping charges.
- Read the seller's privacy policy so you understand how information about you may be used. "Opt-out" of additional mailings if you don't want to receive email or other offers.

Making a Secure Purchase

Some consumers are fearful about shopping online because they are afraid that their credit card number will be stolen. The chances that your credit card will be misused are very remote, particularly if you transmit your number to the merchant in a secure manner. Most merchants use secure web sites, where your personal information is encrypted or scrambled, so that it cannot be easily intercepted. Do not send your credit card number by email as opposed to a secure order form. Emails are not secure.

You can tell if you are entering your personal information on a secure page of a web site if:

- A notice pops up on the screen alerting you to that fact:
- You see a closed lock or unbroken key in the bottom corner of your screen; or
- The first letters of the Internet address of the page you are viewing change to "https".

If you still do not feel comfortable providing your credit card number online, many sellers allow you to either call or fax it to them.

Placing Your Order

To help make sure you receive the right merchandise at the price you want, be sure to:

- Understand if the product is new, used, or reconditioned.
- Compare the price of the product you are considering at a variety of online stores by using several shopping "bots," such as MySimon [www.mysimon.com]. A list of popular shopping bots can be found on the shopping page of www.consumerworld.org.
- Check if the product is in stock or how long a wait there is.
- After entering your order, check that the total price, including shipping and any taxes, is correct.
- Make sure that any special discounts offered or coupons used are properly deducted from your total before you finalize the order.
- Print a copy of your order confirmation screen, and check your email for any further confirmation.

Online Auctions and Private Sellers

Many private sellers on the Internet offer items through auctions, online classified ads, newsgroups and chat rooms. Many state and federal consumer protection laws don't apply to private sales, and pursuing claims can be difficult, especially when you are in one part of the country and the seller is in another.

Auction sites on the Internet have become very popular. However, you may have to be even more careful in choosing one so that you do not become a victim of fraud. Here are some questions to ask before buying at an auction:

- What are the rules of the auction?
- Can I cancel a bid?
- Is the seller a business or a private individual?
- How can I reach the seller if there is a problem?
- Is the merchandise used?
- Does the seller take credit cards?

Check out the reputation of the seller, particularly if it is a private individual. Some auction sites rate sellers, so be sure to check their past selling history. Or contact the seller's local BBB or government consumer office. Use an escrow agent if you don't feel comfortable sending money for merchandise before you've seen it. Such an agent only passes on your money to the seller after you receive and are satisfied with your purchase. As in any auction, learn the value of the merchandise you are bidding on. That is the best way not to overbid, or to fall prey to an unscrupulous seller's use of "shills" to artificially raise the price.

If You Have a Problem...

In rare cases, the seller may have no intention of delivering the goods offered, may grossly misrepresent its products, or send you counterfeit goods such as pirated copies of software. In these cases of fraud, notify the National Fraud Information Center at www.fraud.org and the FTC at www.ftc.gov. For more information about shopping online, visit: www.safeshopping.org and www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/online/payments.htm.

Consumer Privacy

Privacy is an important principle. As a consumer, you benefit when information about you is used to approve your credit application. On the other hand, you may not want to receive unsolicited telemarketing calls or mail. And you could be treated unfairly, or even become a victim of crime, if your personal information is inaccurate or misused.

You have privacy rights for certain personal records such as your credit reports (see page 16), but many situations aren't covered by law. To address privacy concerns, some companies and industry groups have adopted voluntary policies. Look for those policies on sales literature, web sites, or forms companies ask you to fill out. If you don't see anything about how your personal information will be handled, ask. By doing business with companies whose privacy practices meet your approval, you can protect yourself from abuse and use your purchasing power to help promote good privacy policies.

In addition to various federal privacy laws, many states have their own privacy laws concerning telemarketing, employment, using social security numbers, credit card or checking account numbers, medical records, mailing lists, credit reports, debt collection, computerized communications, insurance records and public data banks. Check with your state or local consumer agency (page 70) to find out where to get information about specific privacy rights.

Tips for Protecting Your Privacy

- Don't provide information that isn't required.
 For instance, most information requested on a warranty registration form isn't necessary for the warranty.
 But you may want to give your phone number so you can be contacted easily about product recalls.
- Ask what information about you may be tracked and how it is used. Supermarket scan cards enable you to get special sale prices, but your purchasing history could also be sold to other companies.
- Guard your financial account numbers. Only provide your credit card, charge card, debit card, calling card or bank account number if you're using that account to pay for a purchase or you're applying for

Children Online

Commercial web sites must now obtain parental consent before collecting, using, or disclosing personal information from children under 13. These are new rules that are part of the 1998 Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. For more information, contact the FTC (see page 114) or click on Kids Privacy at www.ftc.gov

- credit. It isn't necessary to give that type of information for any other reason.
- use an answering machine to listen to a caller and decide whether you want to pick up. There are also optional telephone services that you can buy to accept calls only from certain numbers, or to see the name and number of the person calling you (Caller ID). Check with your local telephone company.
- service to block others from using Caller ID to see your name and the number you're calling from. But be aware that this blocking may not work with every type of number you call. Ask your local phone company exactly how the service works. You can also get an unlisted or unpublished phone number for a fee.

- concerns with your children and other house-hold members. Everyone should understand what information you feel is and is not appropriate to provide on the phone, while using a computer, and in other situations.
- Don't allow your credit record to be checked except for legitimate reasons. A lender or employer can check your credit record. But, it's illegal for a business to check your record unless you're seeking financing. Too many inquiries can hurt your credit rating by making it appear that you are seeking too much credit.
- Never give anyone your online password. Con artists may try to trick you into providing your password by pretending to be your online service provider in order to use your access, at your expense. Your service provider already has your password, and no one else should need it.
- Be aware of "cookies" on the Internet. A web site can transfer a file, called a cookie, to the hard drive of your computer when you visit in order to track your activities on its site. This

Identity Theft

Be especially careful with sensitive personal information. Your social security number should not be requested except by an employer, government agency, lender or credit bureau. If that information falls into the wrong hands, it can be used by someone to impersonate you in order to steal from your accounts or to steal from others in your name. Many states no longer use social security numbers on drivers' licenses. Some states offer random numbers as alternatives, and bar merchants from asking consumers to put their social security numbers on checks or credit card slips. Check your credit report regularly. Once a year should be enough, but you may want to check it more frequently if you believe that someone else has impersonated you in order to get credit or other benefits in your name. See ProtectYour Credit Report on page 18.

How Financial Service Companies Share Your Personal Information

Under Federal law banks, insurance companies and stockbrokers may now combine businesses. This means they can share your information with each other. They are also allowed to share your information with third parties that provide marketing services for them or for joint ventures with other financial institutions. You can:

• "Opt out," or ask that your personal information not be shared with unaffiliated third parties. Even if you don't opt out, the actual account numbers for bank or credit card accounts may not be shared with unaffiliated third parties for marketing.

information is used for customer service or marketing, but you can usually specify you don't want to create a cookie.

 Make sure it's safe before you provide financial information online. (See Online Shopping, page 25.)

Health Privacy

With health care information being stored and shared on computers, it is a good idea to be aware of who has your health information and how it is being used.

The Medical Information
Bureau is a data bank used
by insurance companies.
Get a copy of your file to
make sure the information it
contains is correct by
writing to the MIB, PO Box
105, Essex Station, Boston,
MA 02112.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services expects to take action to improve health privacy protections for consumers. For the latest information go to www.hhs.gov or:

Contact the Health
 Privacy Project, Institute
 for Health Care Research
 and Policy, Georgetown
 University Medical Center,
 2233 Wisconsin Avenue,
 NW, Suite 525, Washington,
 DC 20007, 202-687-0880
 www.healthprivacy.org.

Travel Tips

- Deal with reputable travel agents or tour companies. Ask if the business belongs to a professional association. Check with that group to see if the company is a member in good standing and if it participates in any program that protects you in case there are problems. Contact your state or local consumer protection agency (page 70) and the Better Business Bureau (page 114) to find out about the company's complaint history.
- Make sure you understand the terms of the travel offer. Find out exactly what's included in the price and what isn't.
- Ask about the cancellation policy and get all promises in writing. You may want to look into trip insurance for added protection.
- Comparison shop. Beware of unreasonably cheap prices or free trips — you usually get what you pay for! (See Sweepstakes on page 24.)
- Be careful if you're paying for travel in advance. It's not unusual to make a deposit or even pay in full for travel services before the trip. The

- safest way to pay may be by credit card because of your right to dispute the charges if the services were misrepresented or never delivered. Don't be pressured into making a hasty decision by claims that you have to act now! You might pay processing or other fees upfront and then find that a con artist has simply pocketed your money and left you high and dry.
- In some states, certain types of travel sellers have to be registered and insured, and advance payments for travel must be placed in an escrow account until services are provided. Prizes or "free" gifts may also be regulated.

Resolving Complaints

- Contact your state or local consumer protection agency (page 70) to find out about any laws that might protect you and to file complaints related to travel agents, and train or bus travel.
- The American Society of Travel Agents (page 130) helps resolve disputes with member agents.
- For problems with airlines, call, write or email the Aviation Consumer
 Protection Division of the Department of Transportation (page 112).

Services and Resources for Consumers with Disabilities

Directory and Other Operator Services

Consumers who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who have a speech impairment, and use a text telephone (TTY) may receive operator and directory assistance for calls by calling toll free to 1-800-855-1155. Telephone companies may provide additional services for TTY users; these services will be listed in the introductory pages of local telephone directories. For a copy of the U.S. GovernmentTTY Directory, please visit on the World Wide Web or

write to the address below:

Center, DepartmentTTY,

Pueblo CO 81009.

Federal Consumer Information

Hearing and Speech Impairments

Relay Services

Telecommunications relay services are a way to link telephone conversations between individuals who use standard, voice telephones and individuals who use TTYs. Relay services allow hearing and speaking individuals to callTTY numbers and allow individuals with hearing or speech impairments to call voice telephone numbers. Calls can be made from either type of telephone to the other type through the relay service.

Local Relay Services

States provide for relay services for local and long-distance calls. Please consult the local telephone directory for information on the use, fees (if any), services, and dialing instructions of the relay service for that area.

Federal Relay Service (FRS)

The FRS, a program of the U.S. General Services Administration, provides access to TTY users who wish to conduct official business nationwide with and within the Federal Government. The toll-free number is 1-800-877-8339.

For more information on relay communications or to obtain a brochure on using the FRS, please call toll free to 1-800-877-0996.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, celebrating more than fifty years since its founding, is the only national nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization that provides recorded and computerized textbooks at all academic levels to people who cannot read standard print effectively because of a visual impairment, learning disability or other physical disability. RFB&D operates 33 recording studios and offices across the country.

Our 80,000 volume library contains a broad selection of titles, from literature and history to math and the sciences, at all academic levels, from kindergarten through postgraduate and professional. RFB&D offers individual and institutional memberships, scholarship programs and a custom recording service. The cost of an individual membership is \$25 per year, plus a one time \$50 registration fee. Fees for institutional membership range from \$300 to \$800 annually depending on the level of membership and the number of books chosen. RFB&D also offers for nonprofit sale computer and professional books on disk, specially-adapted tape players and accessories.

For more information or to request an application, call, write or visit the website: Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic 20 Roszel Road

Princeton, NJ 08540 Toll free: 1-800-221-4792 Web site: www.rfbd.org

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress, provides the free loan of recorded and braille books and magazines, music scores in braille and large print, and specially designed playback equipment to residents of the United States who are unable to read or use standard print materials because of visual or physical impairment.

NLS administers the program nationally while direct service to eligible individuals and institutions is the responsibility of cooperating libraries in the various states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. Service is also extended to eligible American citizens residing abroad.

Information about any aspect of the NLS/BPH free library service, including application forms and addresses of cooperating libraries may be obtained by contacting:

National Library Service for the Blind and Physi-

cally Handicapped (NLS) Library of Congress Washington, DC 20542

202-707-5100 Toll free: 1-800-424-8567

E-mail: nls@loc.gov
Web site: lcweb.loc.gov/nls

Part II After You Buy

To avoid problems, read and follow product and service instructions. The way you use or take care of a product might affect your warranty rights. Save all contracts, sales receipts, canceled checks, owner's manuals and warranty documents.

How to Complain

- In some instances it will be best to contact the business that sold you the item or performed the service. In other cases, you may wish to go directly to the headquarters of the company or the manufacturer. Ask if they have a consumer affairs office and, if so, report the problem directly to them. Calmly and concisely describe the problem and what action you would like taken.
- Keep a record of your efforts to resolve the problem. When you write to the company, describe

- the problem, what you have done so far to resolve it and what solution you want. (See page 34 for sample complaint letter.) For example, do you want your money back or the product repaired or exchanged? When you call, keep notes of whom you spoke with and what they said.
- Allow time for the person you contacted to resolve your problem. Keep notes of the date, what was agreed on, and the next steps to be taken. Save copies of all letters to and from the company. **Don't** give up if you are not satisfied. There are thirdparty dispute resolution programs, trade associations, media programs, national consumer organizations, and legal assistance programs listed throughout this publication that may be able to assist you.

Making A Complaint

Use the sample consumer complaint letter on page 34 as a guide. If you use e-mail, make sure to send a copy of the e-mail to other relevant organizations. You can also use the links at www.pueblo.gsa.gov to send your complaints to companies, agencies, etc.

Who To Contact and How To Find Them

- Address letters, faxes or emails to the company consumer affairs department or to the president if there is no consumer affairs office.
- Call the company's toll free number. Look for it on any documents you have received from the company, in a directory of toll-free telephone numbers available at your public library, by calling toll-free directory assistance at 1-800-555-1212 or by referring to the many corporate consumer contacts beginning on page 35.

Recalls

Several Federal government agencies enforce product safety regulations and provide recall information. Consult the list below and then **contact the appropriate Federal agency using the information beginning on page 107**.

- Cars National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Drugs, medical devices- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- · Food -U.S. Department of Agriculture; FDA
- · Seafood -FDA; U.S. Department of Commerce
- Toy, baby and play equipment, household products-U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Recalls are also posted regularly on the FCIC website: www.pueblo.gsa.gov

- Check the product label or warranty for the name and address of the manufacturer or parent company.
- Because the name of the manufacturer or parent company is often different than the brand name. check the following books in the reference section of your local library for contact information: Standard & Poor's Register of Corporations, Directors and Executives; Standard Directory of Advertisers; Trade Names Dictionary; Brands and Their Companies; and the Dun & Bradstreet Directory.
- Check the state agency (possibly the corporation commission or secretary of state's office) that provides addresses for companies incorporated in that state.

What To Say

- Include in a letter, fax, or email your name, address, home or work telephone numbers, and account number, if any.
- Make your written or telephone complaint brief. Include the date and place you made the purchase, who performed the service, information about the product (such as the serial or model number, warranty terms), what went wrong, with whom you have tried to resolve the problem, and what you want done to correct the problem.

- Be reasonable, not angry or threatening. Type your letter, if possible, or make sure that your handwriting is neat and easy to read.
- Include copies, not originals, of all documents.

What To Do Next

- You might want to send your complaint letter with a return receipt requested. This will cost more, but it will give you proof that the letter was received and will tell you who signed for it.
- Keep a copy of your complaint letter, and all letters to and from the company.
- If you believe you have given the company enough time to resolve the problem, file a complaint with your state or local consumer protection office, the Better Business Bureau, or the regulatory agency that has jurisdiction over the business, e.g., banking, insurance and utilities commissions. Their addresses can be found starting on pages 87, 91 and 99 respectively. Include information about what you have done so far to try to resolve your complaint. If you think a law has been broken, contact your local or state consumer protection agency right away.

Reep all copies of your letter, fax or email, and all related documents. See the Sample Complaint Letter on page 34.

Here are some sources of help with complaints.

Media Programs

Local newspapers and radio stations often have Action Lines or Hotline services. Many try to resolve all of the consumer complaints they receive. Others handle only the most serious cases or those that occur most frequently. To find these services, check with your local newspapers, radio and television stations, or local library.

Call for Action, Inc.

5272 River Road, Suite 300 Bethesda, MD 20816 301-657-7490 Fax: 301-657-2914 www.callforaction.org TDD/TTY: 301-657-9462 Call for Action, Inc. is a thirtyfive year old international nonprofit network of consumer hotlines, which operates in conjunction with broadcast partners to educate and assist consumers and small businesses with consumer problems. Listed below are hotlines in major markets staffed with trained volunteers who offer advice and mediate complaints

at no cost to consumers. Consumers in all other locations should use the network information above.

WTAJ-TV Call For Action Altoona, PA 814-944-9336

WBZ-TV & Radio Call For Action Boston, MA 617-787-7070

WIVB-TV Call For Action Buffalo, NY 716-879-4900

WJW-TV Call For Action Cleveland, OH 216-578-0700

WJR Radio/WXYZ-TV Call For Action Detroit, MI 810-827-3362

WINK-TV Call For Action Fort Myers, FL 941-334-43570

KCTV-5 Call For Action Kansas City, MO 913-831-1919

WABC Radio Call For Action New York, NY 212-268-5626

KYW-TV & Newsradio Call For Action Philadelphia, PA 215-238-4500

KDKA Radio Call For Action Pittsburgh, PA 412-333-9370

KTVI-TV Call For Action St. Louis, MO 314-282-2222

KCBS Radio Call For Action San Francisco, CA 415-478-3300 WTVG-TV Call For Action Toledo, OH 419-534-3838

WTOP Newsradio Call For Action Washington, DC 301-652-4357

Legal Help

Some sources of help listed in the Consumer Action Handbook will decline complaints from consumers who have already taken legal action.

Small Claims Court

Small claims courts resolve disputes involving claims for small amounts of money. While the maximum amounts that can be claimed or awarded differ from state to state, court procedures generally are simple, inexpensive, quick and informal. Court fees are minimal, and you often get your filing fee back if you win your case. Generally, you will not need a lawyer, and some states do not permit them.

If you live in a state that allows lawyers and the party you are suing brings one, do not be intimidated. The court is informal, and most judges make allowances for consumers who appear without lawyers. Even though the court is informal, the judge's decision is binding and must be followed.

Enforcing a Decision

If the party bringing the suit wins the case, the party who lost will often follow the court's decision without additional legal action. If losing parties will not obey the decision, the winning party can go back to court and ask for the order to be enforced. Depending on local laws, the court might order property to be

taken by law enforcement officials and sold. The winning party will get the money from the sale, up to the amount owed. Or, if the person who owes the money receives a salary, the court might order the employer to garnish or deduct money from each paycheck and give it to the winner of the lawsuit.

Check your local telephone book under the municipal, county or state government headings for small claims court offices.

- Ask the clerk how to use the small claims court.
- Request educational material to prepare you for small claims court.
- Observe a small claims court session before taking your own case to court.

Dispute Resolution

Many small claims courts have dispute resolution programs to help citizens resolve their disputes before trial. These programs (e.g., mediation and conciliation) often simplify the process. In mediation, both people involved in the small claims dispute meet, and with the assistance of a neutral, third party mediator, discuss the situation and create their own agreement.

For additional information about dispute resolution, write to: American Bar Association Section on Dispute Resolution 740 15th Street, NW

740 15th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202-662-1680.

Finding a Lawyer

- Ask friends and family for a reference.
- Check with the Lawyer Referral Service of your state, city or county bar association listed in the telephone directory.

Free Legal Help

You might also be able to receive some free assistance from a law school clinical program where students, supervised by attorneys, handle a variety of legal matters. Some of these programs are open to all. Some limit their service to distinct groups, such as senior citizens or lowincome persons. Contact a law school in your area to find out if such a program is available.

If you cannot afford a lawyer, you may qualify for free legal help from a Legal Aid or Legal Services Corporation office.

These offices generally offer legal assistance about such things as landlord-tenant relations, credit, utilities, family matters (e.g., divorce and adoption), foreclosure, home equity fraud, social security, welfare, unemployment, and workers' compensation. If the Legal Aid office in your area does not handle your type of case, it should be able to refer you to other local, state or national organizations that can provide help. Check the telephone directory to find the address and telephone number of the Legal Aid office nearest to you.

For a directory of Legal Aid offices, contact:

National Legal Aid and Defender Association 1625 K Street, NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20006 202-452-0620 Fax 202-872-1031 E-mail:info@nlada.org Web site: www.nlada.org Congress created the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) in 1974 to provide financial support for legal assistance in noncriminal proceedings to low income consumers. There are LSC offices in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and Micronesia.

To find the LSC office nearest you, check the telephone directory, or call the Federal Consumer Information Center at 1-800-688-9889, or call the LSC Public Affairs Office at 202-336-8800. You can also write to:

LSC Public Affairs

750 1st Street, NE, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20002 202-336-8800

Web site: www.lsc.gov Fax: 202-336-8959.

Sample Complaint Letter

Your Address Your City, State, Zip Code Date

Name of Contact Person, if available Title, if available Company Name Consumer Complaint Division, if you have no contact person Street Address City, State, Zip Code

Dear (Contact Person):

Re: (account number, if applicable)

On (date), I (bought, leased, rented, or had repaired) a (name of the product, with serial or model number or service performed) at (location, date and other important details of the transaction).

Unfotunately, your product (or service) has not performed well (or the service was inadequate) because (state the problem). I am disappointed because (explain the problem: for example, the product does not work properly, the service was not performed correctly, I was billed the wrong amount, something was not disclosed clearly or was misrepresented, etc.).

To resolve the problem, I would appreciate your (state the specific action you want - money back, charge card credit, repair, exchange, etc.) Enclosed are copies (do not send originals) of my records (include receipts, guarentees, warranties, canceled checks, contracts, model and serial numbers, and any other documents).

I look forward to your reply and a resolution to my problem, and will wait until (set a time limit) before seeking help from a consumer protection agency or the Better Business Bureau. Please contact me at the above address or by phone at (home and/or office numbers with area code).

Sincerely,

cc: (reference to whom you are sending a copy of this letter, if anyone)

Your name

Enclosures(s)

state problem

> give history

allow time for action state how you can be

Keep all copies of your letter, fax or email, and all related documents

describe purchase

name of product,

include date and place of purchase

ask for specific

enclose copies of documents

action

serial number

Part III Consumer Assistance Directory

Corporate Consumer Contacts

This section will help you resolve a complaint about a service or product. In some instances it may be best to go back to the place you bought the product or service. In other cases, it may be better to write or call the consumer affairs department at the company's headquarters. Even if you decide to go directly back to the seller, let the consumer affairs department of the company know about your complaint. These offices are set up within companies because they want to hear from you. This section lists the names and addresses of more than 650 corporate headquarters and, in many cases, the name of the person to contact. Many listings also include toll free numbers and TDD (Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf) numbers.

Many of the companies listed in the Handbook are members of the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals in Business (SOCAP). An international professional organization established in 1973, SOCAP provides training, conferences and publications to encourage and maintain the integrity of business in transactions with consumers; to encourage and promote effective communication and understanding among business, government and consumers; and to define and advance the consumer affairs profession. Today, SOCAP has 2,800 members representing more than 1,500 companies, including large national or multinational firms, as well as small to midsize companies, throughout the U.S. and Canada. Associate members represent Federal, state and local government agencies,

universities, and consumer organizations. SOCAP offers consumer affairs/customer service professionals networking opportunities, professional journals and newsletters, salary and job description surveys, and access to its resource center and bookstore.

The Society's goal is to improve the marketplace for consumers by addressing their concerns within the corporate structures. SOCAP members are identified in the Corporate Consumer Contacts section of the Handbook by a mobius strip, which is part of SOCAP's official logo, and symbolizes the unbroken connection between good business and customer satisfaction and loyalty. For more information, contact SOCAP at 801 North Fairfax Street, Suite 404, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-519-3700; Fax: 703-549-4886; e-mail: socap@socap.org or on the web at: www.socap.org.

If you do not find the name of the company you are looking for in this section, check the product label or warranty for the name and address of the manufacturer. Public libraries also have helpful information. The Standard & Poor's Register of Corporations, Directors and Executives; Trade Names Directory; Standard Directory of Advertisers; and Dun & Bradstreet Directory are four sources that list information about most firms. If you cannot find the name of the manufacturer, the Thomas Register of American Manufacturers lists the manufacturers of thousands of products.

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AAMCO Transmissions, Inc.

Anna Wright, Administrator One Presidential Boulevard Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004-1034 610-668-2900

Toll free: 1-800-523-0401 Fax: 610-664-5897

ABC, Inc.

77 West 66th Street New York, NY 10023 212-456-7477

E-mail: abcaudr@abc.com

www.abc.com

ACCO Brands Inc. Fortune Brands

Consumer Affairs 300 Tower Parkway Lincolnshire, IL 60069 847-541-9500

Toll free: 1-800-989-4923 Fax: 1-800-247-1317 www.acco.com

See Also: Swingline, Wilson Jones, Kensington, Gravis, Apollo

Ace Hardware Corporation

2200 Kensington Court Oak Brook, IL 60523 630-990-6600 Fax: 630-990-6856 www.acehardware.com

ACE USA Companies

Mark Whiter, Director Consumer Services 1601 Chestnut Street PO Box 41484 Philadelphia, PA 19101-1484 215-761-4555

Fax: 215-761-2489

E-mail: mark.whiter@ace-ina.com

www.ace-ina.com

Adaptec

691 South Milpitas Blvd. Milpitas, CA 95035 Toll free: 1-800-959-7274 Fax: 408-957-2546

E-mail: support@adaptec.com

www.adaptec.com

Adidas America

Carol Collins, Manager Consumer Relatons 9605 SW Nimbus Avenue PO Box 4015 Beaverton, OR 97076 503-972-2300

Toll free: 1-800-448-1796 Fax: 503-906-4515

E-mail:

consumer.relations@adidasus.com www.adidas.com

Admiral-Maytag Appliance Sales Co.

240 Edwards Street Cleveland, TN 37311 Toll free: 1-800-688-9920 TDD toll free: 1-800-688-2080

Adobe Systems

345 Park Avenue San Jose, CA 95110 408-536-6000

206-470-7000 (Seattle, WA) Toll free: 1-800-685-3507 Toll free: 1-800-833-6687 Toll free: 1-800-879-3219 www.adobe.com

AETNA, Inc.

151 Farmington Avenue Hartford, CT 06156 860-273-0123 Toll free outside CT: 1-800-US-AETNA

TDD/TTY: 860-273-3081

Fax: 860-273-9806 (consumer issues)

www.aetna.com

AFC Enterprises

America's Favorite Chicken Co 6 Concourse Parkway, Suite 1700 Atlanta, GA 30328-5352 770-391-9500

Toll free: 1-800-222-5857 Fax: 770-353-3280 www.afc-online.com

🛂 Alamo Rent A Car

PO Box 22776 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335 954-522-0000

Toll free: 1-800-445-5664 www.goalamo.com

Alaska Airlines

Manager P.O. Box 68900 Seattle, WA 98168 206-870-6062 (consumer affairs) 206-431-7428 (cargo/freight claims) 206-431-7425 (baggage claims) 206-431-3753 (refunds/lost ticket

applications)

Toll free: 1-800-426-0333 (Reserva-

tions)

Fax: 206-439-4477 www.alaskair.com

Alberto Culver Co.

2525 Armitage Avenue Melrose Park, IL 60160

708-450-3163 Fax: 708-450-3435 www.alberto.com

Albertson's Inc.

Jenny Enochson, Corp. Manager, Community Relations Corporate Headquarters 250 Parkcenter Blvd Boise, ID 84726 208-395-6392 Fax: 208-395-6773 www.albertsons.com

Albertsons Inc.

Judith Decker, Manager Media & Community Relations P.O. Box 5008

San Leandro, CA 94577

510-678-5444 Fax: 510-678-5410

E-mail: DECKER.J@amstr.com

Alcon Laboratories, Inc.

Martha Siegel, Director Consumer Affairs, Quality Assurance

6201 South Freeway Fort Worth, TX 76134-2099 817-551-8298

Fax: 817-551-3092

Allegheny Pharmacal Corp. 817-967-4162

Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer 277 Northern Blvd. Great Neck, NY 11021

516-466-0660

Toll free: 1-800-645-6190

Allied Van Lines

P.O. Box 4403 Chicago, IL 60680 630-717-3590

Toll free: 1-800-470-2851 Fax: 630-717-3123 www.alliedvan.com

Allstate Insurance Co.

2775 Sanders Road Northbrook, IL 60062 847-402-5448 Fax: 847-402-0169 www.allstate.com

Almaden Vinyards

Consumer Relations 12667 Road 24 Madera, CA 93639 Toll free: 1-800-726-9977

🖴 Aloha Airlines

Bonnie Horibata, Manager, Customer Relations
P.O. Box 30028
Honolulu, HI 96820
808-836-4115

Toll free: 1-800-803-9454 Fax: 808-836-4206

E-mail:

bhoribata@alohaairlines.com

Amana Appliances

DixieTrout, Vice President of Consumer Communications 2800 220thTrail Amana, IA 52204

Toll free: 1-800-843-0304 (product

questions)

Toll free: 1-800-628-5782 (service)

www.amana.com

America West Airlines

4000 East Sky Harbor Blvd. Phoenix, AZ 85034 480-693-0800

Toll free: 1-800-235-9292 TDD toll free: 1-800-526-8077

Fax: 480-693-3707 www.americawest.com

American Airlines, Inc.

P.O. Box 619612 MD 2400 Fort Worth, TX 75261-9612 817-967-2000 817-967-4162

817-967-4162 Fax: 817-967-4162

American Automobile Association

Manager Mailspace 61 1000 AAA Drive Heathrow, FL 32746

American Express Co.

Peggy Haney, Vice President 777 American Express Way Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33333

Toll free: 1-800-528-4800 (green card

inquiries)

Toll free: 1-800-327-2177 (gold card

inquiries)



Toll free: 1-800-525-3355 (platinum

card inquiries)

www.americanexpress.com

American Family **Publishers**

P.O. Box 62000 Tampa, FL 33662-2000 Toll free: 1-800-AFP-2400

American Greetings Corp.

Sue Holiday Consumer Correspondent One American Road Cleveland, OH 44144 216-252-7300, ext. 1281 Toll free: 1-800-777-4891

E-mail:

sue.holiday@amgreetings.com www.corporate.americangreetings.com

American Home Products Corp.

5 Giralda Farms Madison, NJ 07940 973-660-5000

Toll free: 1-800-322-3129

www.ahp.com

American Standard, Inc.

Ronald Fojtlin, Manager PO Box 6820 Piscataway, NJ 08855-6820 Toll free: 1-800-223-0068 Fax: 732-980-6170

American Stores Co.

See: OSCO Drugs, Subsidiary of American Stores

Ameritech

225 West Randolph Street, Room 30-D Chicago, IL 60606 312-722-9411

Toll free: 1-800-244-4444 (customers

Toll free: 1-800-451-2761 www.ameritech.com

Amway Corporation

Customer Service North American Business Region 7575 East Fulton Road Ada, MI 49355 Toll free: 1-800-544-7167 TDD toll free: 1-800-548-3878

www.amway.com

Andersen Windows, Inc.

Window Care Call Center 100 Fourth Avenue North Bayport, MN 55003 651-430-5150

Toll free: 1-888-888-7020 Fax: 651-430-5827

www.andersenwindows.com

🕰 Anheuser-Busch, Inc.

Rosann Klaesner, Manager Customer Call Center Marketing One Busch Place St. Louis, MO 63118 314-552-1305

314-552-1311

Toll free: 1-800-342-5283 Fax: 314-552-1311

E-mail: rosann.klaesner@anheuser-

busch.com

www.budweiser.com

Aon Innovative Services

Joy A Arnold, Call Center Manager 13922 Denver West Parkway Golden, CO 80020 303-271-2336 E-mail: j.arnold@innovativeservices.com

www.aon.com

AON Corporation

John Roskopf, Vice President Financial Relations 123 North Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 312-701-3000 312-701-3983 Fax: 312-701-3793 www.aon.com

Apollo

See: ACCO Brands Inc.

Apple Computer, Inc.

One Infinite Loop Cupertino, CA 95014

Toll free: 1-800-538-9696 (dealer

information)

Toll free: 1-800-767-2775 (tech

assistance)

Toll free: 1-800-646-7582 (per incident

tech support) www.apple.com

Appleseeps

30 Tozer Road Beverly, MA 01915 978-922-2040 Toll free: 1-800-767-6666 www.appleseeps.com

Arizona Mail Order

3740 Fast 34th Street Tucson, AZ 85713 520-748-8600

Fax: 520-750-6755

www.oldpueblotraders.com

Armour Swift Eckrich

2001 Butterfield Road Downers Grove, IL 60515 630-512-1000

Toll free: 1-800-325-7424 (Eckrich

nutrition)

Fax: 630-512-1124

Armstrong World Industries, Inc.

Rita Battles, Manager **Customer Service** PO Box 3001 Lancaster, PA 17604 717-396-3040 Toll free: 1-800-233-3823

Fax: 717-396-4270

www.armstrongfloors.com

Artisoft, Inc.

Communications Software Group One South Church Avenue Suite 2200 Tucson, AZ 85701 520-670-7000

Toll free: 1-800-846-9726 Fax: 520-670-7101 www.artisoft.com

Asante Technologies

821 Fox Lane San Jose, CA 95131 408-435-8388 Toll free: 1-800-622-7464 Fax: 408-432-1117 www.asante.com

The Associates, Texaco Portfolio

David Hogan, Vice President 330 Barker Cypress Road Houston, TX 77094 281-754-1728

Toll free: 1-800-938-2267 (credit card

department) Fax: 281-754-1702

A.T. Cross Co.

Consumer Relations One Albion Road Lincoln, RI 02865 401-333-1200, ext. 380

Toll free: 1-800-AT CROSS (282-

7677)

Fax: 401-334-4856

E-mail: calisk@cross.com

T&TA

Claudia Jones Consumer Affairs Director Consumer Services 295 North Maple Avenue Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 908-221-2000 908-221-5942

Toll free: 1-800-222-0300 TDD/TTY: 1-800-522-2880

Fax: 908-221-1211 www.att.com

ATI Technologies, Inc.

33 Commerce Valley Dr., East Thornhill, ONTARIO L3T 7N6 CANADA 905-882-2600 Fax: 905-882-0546

www.support.atitech.com;

www.atitech.ca

Atlantic Richfield Co., ARCO Products Co.

Manager 4 Center Point Drive La Palma, CA 90623 213-486-3511

Toll free: 1-800-322-2726

www.arco.com

Atlas Van Lines, Inc.

Jan Martin, Vice President Claims Administration PO Box 509

Evansville, IN 47703-0509

812-424-2222

Toll free: 1-800-252-8885 Fax: 812-421-7129

E-mail: janmar2@stlasvanlines.com Ball Park Brands

www.atlasvanlines.com

Automobile Magazine (Division of K-III)

575 Lexington Avenue, 24th Floor New York, NY 10022 212-891-6360

Aventis Corp

Sam Wilhoit Customer Service Manager North American Headquarters PO Box 9627 Kansas City, MO 64134-0627

816-966-4000

Toll free: 1-800-552-3656 Fax: 816-966-3860 www.hmri.com

Avis Rent-A-Car System

Barbara Pearson, Manager 4500 South 129th East Avenue Suite 100

Tulsa, OK 74134-3802 Toll free: 1-800-352-7900 Fax: 918-621-4819

E-mail: custserv.@avis.com

www.avis.com

🔼 Avon Products, Inc.

Lynn Baron, Director, Avon Information C & R

1251 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10020 212-282-7571

Toll free: 1-800-367-2866

Toll free: 1-800-445-2866 (consumer

information center)

Toll free: 1-800-FOR-AVON

www.avon.com

В

Bacardi USA, Inc.

Frederick Wilson, General Counsel 2100 Biscayne Blvd. Miami, FL 33137 305-573-8511 Toll free: 1-800-BACARDI

Fax: 305-573-2730 www.Bacardi.com

Bali (Division of Sara Lee Corp.)

3330 Healy Drive PO Box 5100 (27113) Winston-Salem, NC 27113

336-519-6053

Toll free: 1-800-225-4872 www.balinet.com

Diana J. Prindle, Manager Consumer Affairs PO Box 19170 Detroit, MI 48219 248-355-1100

Toll free: 1-800-317-5867 Fax: 248-355-3436 www.ballparkfranks.com

Bally Entertainment

8700 West Bryn Mawr Avenue Chicago, IL 60631 773-399-1300

Bank of America

www.BankofAmerica.com

Hugh McColl, Chairman and CEO 100 N. Tryon St Charlotte, NC 28255 Toll free: 1-888-279-3457

Bank United

Pat Stambaugh-Morettii V.P. Quality Service Manager Community Bank 3200 SW Freeway Houston, TX 77027 713-543-7897

E-mail: pmoret@bankunited.com

www.bankunited.com

Bass Pro Shop

2500 East Kearney Springfield, MO 65898 417-873-5000

Toll free: 1-800-BASS-PRO TDD toll free: 1-800-442-5788

Fax: 417-873-5060

E-mail: webmgr@basspro.com

www.basspro.com

Bayer Consumer Care Division

36 Columbia Road PO Box 1910 Morristown, NJ 07962-1910 973-331-4536

Toll free: 1-800-331-4536 Fax: 973-408-8000

Bear Creek Corp.

2518 South Pacific Highway PO Box 299 Medford, OR 97501

Toll free: 1-800-345-5655 (Harry and

Toll free: 1-800-872-7673 (Jackson

and Perkins) Fax: 541-776-2194 www.harryanddavid.com

Beatrice Cheese, Inc.

770 North Springdale Road Waukesha, WI 53186 414-782-2750

Toll free: 1-800-444-6101 Fax: 414-782-0760

www.beatricecheese.com

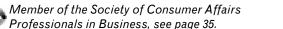
Becton Dickinson and Co.

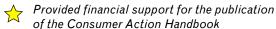
Gary Cohen, President One Becton Drive Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 201-847-6658

Fax: 201-884-5487

Beech-Nut Nutrition Corporation

See: The Milnot Company





Beiersdorf, Inc.

Wilton Corporate Center 187 Danbury Road Wilton, CT 06897 203-563-5800

Toll free outside CT: 1-800-233-2340

Fax: 203-563-5895

🌟 Bell Atlantic

1095 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036 212-395-2121 (main switchboard)

Toll free: 1-800-721-2300 Toll free: 1-800-621-9900 TTY toll free: 1-800-974-6006 www.bellatlantic.com

BellSouth

Telecommunications, Inc.

Executive Appeals Manager 37D57 BellSouth Center 675 West Peachtree Street, NW Atlanta, GA 30375 404-927-7400

Toll free: 1-800-346-9000 (Bell South

Products)

TTY toll free: 1-800-251-5325 (TTY, **BIC Corp.**

VCO/HCO) Fax: 404-584-6545 E-mail:

Hq.Appeals@bridge.bellsouth.com

www.bellsouth.com

Benckiser Consumer **Products**

Gerry Luepke, Manager, Consumer Info Service Five American Drive

Greenwich, CT 06831 Toll free: 1-800-284-2023

Benckiser Consumer Products Inc.

See: Reckitt Benckiser Inc.

Benihana of Tokyo

Marci Kleinsasser, Director 8685 Northwest 53rd Terrace Miami, FL 33166 305-593-0770

Toll free: 1-800-327-3369 Fax: 305-592-6371

Berkeley Systems

2095 Rose Street Berkeley, CA 94709 510-540-5535

425-746-5771 (technical support)

Fax: 510-540-5630 www.berksys.com

Best Foods

700 Silven Avenue Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632-9976 201-894-4000 Toll free: 1-800-338-8831 Fax: 201-894-2126 www.bestfoods.com

Best Western International

Peggy Yoder, Manager PO Box 42007 Phoenix, AZ 85080-2007

623-780-6181

Toll free: 1-800-528-1238 Fax: 623-780-6199 www.bestwestern.com

BFGoodrich Tires

PO Box 19001 Greenville, SC 29602-9001 864-458-5000

Toll free: 1-800-521-9796 Fax: 864-458-6650 www.michelin.com

500 Bic Drive Milford, CT 06460 203-783-2000 www.bicworld.com

Binney & Smith Inc.

100 Church Lane Easton, PA 18042 610-253-6272

Toll free: 1-800-CRAYOLA www.crayola.com

Bissell

Greg Durkee, Manager Consumer Services PO Box 1888 2345 Walker Avenue, NW Grand Rapids, MI 49544-2597 Toll free: 1-800-237-7691 E-mail: durkeege@bissell.com www.bissell.com

Black and Decker Power Tools

626 Hanover Pike Hampstead, MD 21074 410-239-5300

Toll free: 1-800-762-6672 www.blackanddecker.com

Block Drug Company,

Alice McCann, Manager Consumer Affairs

257 Cornelison Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07302-9988 201-434-3000

Toll free outside NJ: 1-800-365-6500

Fax: 201-434-4186

E-mail:

consumer_affairs@blockdrug.com

www.blockdrug.com

Bloomingdale's by Mail,

475 Knotter Drive PO Box 593 Cheshire, CT 06410-0593 203-271-1313

Toll free: 1-800-777-0000 (mail order) TDD/TTY toll free: 1-800-838-2892

Fax: 203-271-5321

E-mail: bloomiessh@aol.com

Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

1310 G Street, NW 12th Floor Washington, DC 20005 202-626-4780 Fax: 202-626-4833

www.bluecares.com

Bob Evans Farms, Inc.

3776 South High Street Columbus, OH 43207 614-491-2225

Toll free: 1-800-272-7675 Fax: 614-497-4330

F-mail:

tammy.myers@bobevans.com www.bobevans.com

Boca Research, Inc.

1601 Clint Moore Road Boca Raton, FL 33487 561-241-8088 (customer service)

Fax: 561-997-2163

E-mail: support@bocaresearch.com

www.bocaresearch.com

Bojangles

Customer Relations PO Box 240239 Charlotte, NC 28224 704-527-2675 Toll free: 1-800-366-9921 Fax: 704-522-8677 www.bojangles.com

Borden, Inc.

180 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215 614-225-4511

Toll free: 1-800-426-7336 Fax: 616-225-7680

Borland

100 Enterprise Way Scotts Valley, CA 95066

831-431-1000

Toll free: 1-800-523-7070 Fax: 408-431-4353 E-mail: customerservice@borland.com www.borland.com

BP/Amoco Oil Co.

Richard Smith, Manager 28341 Ferry Road Warrenville, IL 60555 Toll free: 1-800-333-3991

Toll free: 1-800-227-3329 (credit card) Toll free: 1-800-782-7887 (club

emergency services) Fax: 630-836-4530

Bradlees Inc.

Terry DeFilippo, Corporate Customer Service Manager **Customer Service** One Bradlees Circle PO Box 9015 Braintree, MA 02184 781-380-5377

781-380-5068 Fax: 781-380-5068 www.bradlees.com

Braun

1 Gillette Park Boston, MA 02127

Toll free: 1-800-BRAUN11 (1-800-272-

8611)

www.braun.com

Bridgestone/Firestone,

Inc.

PO Box 7988

Chicago, IL 60680-9534 Toll free: 1-800-367-3872 Fax: 800-760-7859

F-mail.

firestone_consumer_affairs@faneuil.com

Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Group

Robert Laverty, Director PO Box 4000

Princeton, NJ 08543-4000

609-252-4000

Toll free: 1-800-332-2056 (customer

relations) www.bms.com

British Airways

75-20 Astoria Blvd. Jackson Heights, NY 11370 718-397-4000

Toll free: 1-800-247-9297 (Airways)

Fax: 718-397-4395

www.british-airways.com

Brown Shoe

Consumer Care 8300 Maryland Avenue Clayton, MO 63105 314-854-4000

Toll free: 1-800-766-6465 Fax: 314-854-4274

E-mail: info@brownshoe.com

www.brownshoe.com

Brown-Forman Beverages Worldwide

Dianne Hall, Consumer Services

Specialist PO Box 1080 Louisville, KY 40201

502-585-1100

Toll free: 1-800-753-4567 (Canadian

Budget Gourmet

PO Box 10 Boise. ID 83707

Toll free: 1-800-488-0050 Fax: 208-383-6309

🖴 Budget Rent-A-Car Corp.

PO Box 111580

Carrollton, TX 75011-1580 Toll free: 1-800-621-2844 Fax: 972-404-7869

Bull & Bear Group, Inc.

11 Hanover Square New York, NY 10005

212-363-1100

Toll free: 1-800-847-4200 Fax: 212-363-1103

E-mail: info@mutualfunds.net

www.mutualfunds.net

Bulova Watch Co.

Manager

26-15 Brooklyn Queens Expressway Woodside, NY 11377 718-204-3300 (consumer relations)

718-204-3222 (service)

Burlington Coat Factory Warehouse Corp.

Monroe Milstein, President 1830 Route 130 North Burlington, NJ 08016 609-387-7800

Fax: 609-387-7071

Burlington Industries, Inc.

Gayle Turner, Pubic Relations 3330 West Friendly Avenue

Greensboro, NC 27410

336-379-2472 Fax: 336-379-4504 www.burlington.com

Cabela's, Inc.

Robyn Mowery, Manager - Government & International Sales

Gourmet Sales One Cabela Drive Sidney, NE 69160 308-254-5505 x1190 Toll free: 1-800-242-1596 TDD/TTY: 1-800-695-5000

Fax: 308-254-6680

E-mail: government@cabelas.com

www.cabelas.com

Caere Corporation

100 Cooper Court Los Gatos, CA 95032 408-395-8319

Toll free: 1-800-654-1187 Fax: 408-395-8319

E-mail: opsales@caere.com

www.caere.com

Calcomp (plotters)

577 Burning Tree Road Fullerton, CA 92833 Toll free: 1-800-225-2667

Calvin Klein

Emily Stone, Vice President 205 West 39th Street 10th Floor New York, NY 10018 212-719-2600

Calvin Klein Cosmetics Company

See: Unilever Cosmetics International

Campbell Soup Co.

Susan Baranowsky, Manager Consumer Response and Information Center

Campbell Place PO Box 26B

Camden, NJ 08103-1799 856-342-6111

Toll free: 1-800-257-8443 Fax: 856-342-6449 www.campbellsoup.com

Canandaigua Wine Co.

Consumer Relations 116 Buffalo Street Canandaigua, NY 14424

716-394-7900

Toll free: 1-888-659-7900 Fax: 716-393-6950

Canon Computer Systems

15955 Alton Parkway Irvine, CA 92618 949-753-4000

Toll free: 1-800-423-2366 Toll free: 1-800-848-4123 Fax: 949-753-4239 www.ccsi.canon.com

Canon U.S.A., Inc.

One Canon Plaza Lake Success, NY 11042 516-488-6700

Toll free: 1-800-828-4040

Carfax Inc.

George Bounacos, Director Customer Operations 10304 Eaton Place Suite 500 Fairfax, VA 22030

Toll free: 1-800-274-2277 Fax: 703-218-2853 www.carfax.com

Carrier Air Conditioning

Customer Relations Manager PO Box 4808 Syracuse, NY 13221 315-432-7885 Toll free: 1-800-227-7437 Toll free Bryant Heating and Air Conditioning: 1-800-428-4326 Toll free Day & Night Heating and Air Conditioning: 1-800-428-4326 Toll free Payne Heating & Air Conditioning: 1-800-428-4326

Fax: 315-432-6620 www.carrier.utc.com

Carter-Wallace, Inc.

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Toll free: 1-800-833-9532 Fax: 212-339-5100

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20 Batterson Park Road Farmington, CT 06032-2502 860-677-6811

Toll free: 1-800-322-4848 www.carvel.com

Casio, Inc.

570 Mt. Pleasant Avenue Dover, NJ 07801 973-361-5400

Toll free: 1-800-962-2746 Fax: 973-361-3819 www.casio.com

CEC Entertainment, Inc.

4441 West Airport Freeway Irving, TX 75062 972-258-8507 Fax: 972-258-8545 www.chuckecheese.com

Celestial Seasonings

4600 Sleepytime Drive Boulder, CO 80301-3292

303-530-5300

Toll free: 1-800-351-8175 www.celestialseasonings.com

Ceridian Corp.

8100 34th Avenue South Bloomington, MN 55425 612-853-8100

C.F. Hathaway

10 Water Street Waterville, ME 04901 207-873-4241

Toll free: 1-800-341-1003

Fax: 207-873-8390

Chanel, Inc.

Consumer Relations 9 West 57th Street 44th Floor New York, NY 10019-2790 212-688-5055

Fax: 212-752-1851

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270 Park Avenue New York, NY 10017 212-270-9300

Toll free: 1-800-AT-CHASE

Fax: 212-270-1882 www.chase.com

Chattem, Inc.

1715 West 38th Street Chattanooga, TN 37409 423-821-4571

Toll free outside TN: 1-800-745-2429

Chesebrough-Pond's, USA

Linnea Johnson, Director Consumer Services 800 Sylvan Avenue Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632 Toll free: 1-800-743-8640

Toll free: 1-800-786-5135

www.unilever.com

Chevron Products Co.

Tracey Rest, Supervisor

PO Box H

Concord, CA 94524 Toll free: 1-800-962-1223 Fax: 510-827-6820 www.chevron.com

Chicken of the Sea International

Dennis Mussell, President & CEO 4510 Executive Drive, Suite 300 San Diego, CA 92121

858-597-4242 Fax: 858-597-4566

Chuck E Cheese's Restaurants

See: CEC Entertainment, Inc.

Church & Dwight Company, Inc.

Nancy Sevinsky, Manager 469 North Harrison Street Princeton, NJ 08543-5297 609-683-5900

Toll free: 1-800-524-1328

E-mail: website@churchdwight.com

www.armhammer.com

CIBA Vision

Consumer Relations 11460 Johns Creek Parkway Duluth, GA 30045 770-418-5117

Toll free: 1-800-875-3001 www.cibavision.com

CIE America

Customer Service 2701 Dow Avenue Tustin, CA 92780 714-753-2942

Toll free: 1-800-877-1421 Fax: 714-368-4880 www.citoh.com

CIGNA Property and Casualty Companies

Mark Whiter, Director 1601 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19101-1484 215-761-4555 215-761-2489

Circuit City Stores, Inc.

9950 Mayland Drive Richmond, VA 23233 804-527-4000

Toll free: 1-800-627-2274 Fax: 804-342-6481

Citizen Watch Company of America

Executive Secretary 8506 Osage Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90045 310-649-0991

Toll free: 1-800-321-1023

Clopay Building Products Co.

Sandy Stewart, Manager 312 Walnut Street, Suite 1600 Cincinnati, OH 45202-4036 Toll free: 1-800-225-6729 Fax: 513-762-3519 www.paydoor.com

Clorox Co.

Beverly Randolph, Consumer Services Manager 1221 Broadway Oakland, CA 94612-1888 510-271-7571

Toll free: 1-800-292-2200 (laundry

brands)

Toll free: 1-800-835-4523 (GLAD) Toll free: 1-800-227-1860 (household

surface cleaners)

Toll free: 1-800-426-6228 (insecti-

cides)

Toll free: 1-800-242-7482 (water

purification systems)
Toll free: 1-800-426-6228 (insecti-

cides)

www.clorox.com

🕰 Coats & Clark Inc.

Craft & Yarn Division PO Box 12229 Greenville, SC 29612-0229

864-877-8985

Toll free: 1-800-648-1479 www.coatsandclark.com

The Coca-Cola Co.

Amanda Pace, Director Industry and Consumer Affairs PO Box 1734 Atlanta, GA 30301 404-676-2121 Toll free: 1-800-438-2653

TDD toll free: 1-800-262-2653

Fax: 404-676-4903

www.thecocacolacompany.com

Coldwell Banker Corp.

339 Jefferson Road PO Box 3257 Parsippany, NJ 07054-3259

973-912-4000

Toll free: 1-800-732-5867 Fax: 973-912-4005

★ The Colgate-Palmolive ★ Company

Jan Guifarro, Director, Consumer Affairs 300 Park Avenue New York, NY 10022 212-310-2000

Toll free: 1-800-468-6502 Toll free: 1-800-763-0246 Fax: 212-310-3243 www.colgate.com

Collins & Aikman Products Co.

PO Box 32665 Charlotte, NC 28232 704-547-8500 Fax: 704-548-2172

Colonial Penn Group, Inc.

Gregory Barstead, President 399 Market Street 5th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19181 215-928-8000

Toll free: 1-800-523-1700 (auto customer service)

Toll free: 1-800-523-2800 (homeowner

customer service)

Toll free: 1-800-523-4000 (health

customer service)

Toll free: 1-800-523-9100 (life cus-

tomer service)

🕰 Columbia Gas of Ohio

PO Box 117 Columbus, OH 43216-0117 Toll free: 1-800-344-4077 TDD/TTY: 1-877-460-2443

Fax: 614-450-5502

www.columbiagasohio.com

The Columbia House Company

1400 N. Fruitridge Avenue Terre Haute, IN 47811

Toll free: 1-800-457-0500 (music)
Toll free: 1-800-457-0866 (videos)
Toll free: 1-800-562-5830 (CD-rom)
Toll free: 1-800-965-9665 (audiobook)

www.columbiahouse.com

Combe Incorporated

Teresa Infantino, Executive Vice President

1101 Westchester Avenue White Plains, NY 10604-3503

914-694-5454

Toll free: 1-800-431-2610 (consumer

affairs)

Toll free: 1-800-873-7400 (product

questions) Fax: 914-694-6320

Compaq Computer Corporation

PO Box 692000 Houston, TX 77269 281-370-0670

Toll free: 1-800-852-6672 (technical

support)

Toll free: 1-800-345-1518 (product

information) Fax: 970-282-9225 www.compaq.com

Computer Associates

PO Box 3391 Tulsa, OK 74101-3391 918-838-7638

405-947-5600 (Oklahoma City)

Toll free: 1-800-722-9095 Fax: 918-836-5918

E-mail: TLH@dreyersoftware.com

www.dreyersoftware.com

ConAgra Frozen Foods

Consumer Affairs PO Box 3768 Omaha, NE 68103-0768

402-595-6000

Toll free: 1-800-722-1344 Fax: 402-595-7880

E-mail: cffcr@conagrafrozen.com

www.conagra.com

ConAgra Grocery Products Company

PO Box 4800 Fullerton, CA 92833 714-680-1431

Congoleum Corp.

Brian Quigley
Director of Consumer Affairs
3705 Quakerbridge Rd, Suite 211
Mercerville, NJ 08619

609-584-3610

Toll free: 1-800-274-3266 Fax: 609-584-3521 www.congoleum.com

Consolidated Stores Corp.

Customer Relations 300 Phillipi Road PO Box 28512

Columbus, OH 43228-0512

614-278-6800

Toll free: 1-800-877-1253 E-mail: talk2us@cnstores.com

www.cnstores.com

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Washington, Inc.

15847 Crabbs Branch Way Rockville, MD 20855 301-590-1010

Toll free: 1-800-747-4222 E-mail: info@cccsdc.org

www.cccsdc.org

Continental Airlines, Inc.

PO Box 4607-HQ SCR Houston, TX 77210-4607 Toll free: 1-800-932-2732 E-mail: custo@coair.com

Continental/General Tire,

Ron Forsyth
National Manager, Product Services
Consumer Relations
1800 Continental Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 29710
Toll free: 1-800-847-3349
Fax: 1-888-TIREFAX (847-3329)
E-mail: tirefix@gentire.com
www.contigentire.com

Converse, Inc.

Customer Service Group One Fordham Road North Reading, MA 01864-2680 Toll free: 1-800-428-CONS (2667) Fax: 508-664-7440

Fax: 508-664-7440 www.converse.com

Conwood Company, L.P.

813 Ridge Lake Blvd. Memphis, TN 32120 901-761-2050 901-767-1302

Toll free: 1-800-238-5990

Coors Brewing Co.

Toni Houck, Group Manager Consumer Relations 311 10th Street - NH475 Golden, CO 80401 303-279-6565

Toll free: 1-800-642-6116 Fax: 303-277-5415

Corel Corporation

1600 Carling Avenue Ottawa, ON K1Z 8R7 CANADA Toll free: 1-800-772-6735 (Buffalo,

NY)

Toll free: 1-877-422-6735

Fax: 613-728-0826, ext. 3080 (fax back); 613-761-9176 (customer service) E-mail: custserv@corel.com

Craftmatic Organization, Inc.

2500 Interplex Drive Trevose, PA 19053-6998 215-639-1310

Toll free: 1-800-677-8200 (service) Toll free: 1-800-828-1033 (consumer

affairs)

Fax: 215-639-9941

Creative Labs

1523 Cimarron Plaza Stillwater, OK 74075 405-742-6622 or 6655 405-742-2160 (NT+052 users) Toll free: 1-800-998-5227 Toll free: 1-800-998-1000 (customer

service)

Fax: 405-742-6633; 405-372-5227 (fax

back)

E-mail: 72662.3046@compuserv.com

www.creativelabs.com

Crown Books

3300 75th Avenue Landover, MD 20785 Toll free: 1-800-831-7400 www.crownbooks.com

Cuisinarts (Division of Conair Co.)

Peter Cammarata, Director, Sales & Marketing Operation
One Cummings Point Road
Stamford, CT 06904
203-975-4600
609-426-1300 (in NJ)
Tell free outside N I: 1 800 726 0100

Toll free outside NJ: 1-800-726-0190 Toll free: 1-800-726-6247, ext. 4605

Fax: 203-975-4660 E-mail: cuisinart@conair www.cuisinart.com

Culligan International Co.

Consumer Affairs One Culligan Parkway Northbrook, IL 60062 Toll free: 1-800-CULLIGAN www.culligan.com

Cumberland Packing Corporation

Marvin Eisenstadt, President Sweet 'N Low Two Cumberland Street Brooklyn, NY 11205 718-858-4200 Fax: 718-260-9017 www.sweetnlow.com

Current, Inc.

Dawn Roth, Manager, Call Centers 1005 East Woodmen Road Colorado Springs, CO 80920 719-531-2717 719-594-4100 Toll free: 1-800-525-7170 Fax: 719-531-6510

E-mail: drroth@currentinc.com www.currentcatalog.com

CVS/pharmacy

Customer Relations Department One CVS Drive Woonsocket, RI 02895 401-765-1500 Toll free: 1-800-666-0500

Toll free: 1-800-666-0500 Fax: 401-762-6949 www.cvs.com

WWW.6V3.60

Cyrix

2703 North Central Expressway Richardson, TX 75080 972-968-8387

Toll free: 1-800-462-9749 Fax: 972-679-9857 www.cyrix.com

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Dairy Queen

PO Box 39286 7505 Metro Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55439-0286 612-830-0200 Fax: 612-830-0480 www.dairyqueen.com

🌟 The Dannon Co., Inc.

Eileen Troise, Consumer Affairs Manager P. O. Box 90296 Allentown, PA 18109-0296

Toll free: 1-800-DANNON US Fax: 610-231-8597

E-mail: dannon@casupport.com

Danskin

Shelby Snyder PO Box 15016 York, PA 17405-7016 717-840-5817 Toll free: 1-800-288-6749

Fax: 717-840-5855

DAP Products, Inc.

Matt Stewart, Manager Regulatory & Environmental Affairs 2400 Boston Street Suite 200 Baltimore, MD 21224 410-675-2100

Toll free: 1-800-543-3840 Fax: 410-558-1097

E-mail: mstewart@dap.com

www.dap.com

Deere & Company

Corporate Communications 1 John Deere Place Moline, IL 61265 309-765-8000 www.deere.com

Del Laboratories, Inc.

Consumer Relations 565 Broad Hollow Road Farmingdale, NY 11735

516-844-2020

Toll free: 1-800-952-5080 Toll free: 1-800-953-5080 Fax: 516-293-1515

E-mail: del1@dellabs.com www.dellabs.com

Del Monte Foods

PO Box 193575 San Francisco, CA 94119-3575 415-247-3000

Toll free: 1-800-543-3090 Fax: 415-247-3080

Delta Air Lines, Inc.

Customer Care PO Box 20980 Atlanta, GA 30320-2980

404-715-1450

Fax: 1-888-286-3163 (Toll free within U.S. and Canada)

www.delta-air.com

Delta Faucets Company

55 East 111th Street PO Box 40980 Indianapolis, IN 46280 317-848-1812 317-574-5555

Toll free: 1-800-345-3358 www.deltafaucet.com

Deneba Software

1150 NW 72nd Avenue Miami, FL 33126 305-596-5644

Toll free: 1-800-622-6827 Fax: 305-273-9069

E-mail: support@deneba.com

www.deneba.com

Denny's Inc.

203 East Main Street Spartanburg, SC 29319

864-597-8000

Toll free: 1-800-7DENNYS

Dep Corp.

George Andrassy, Vice President

2101 East Via Arado

Rancho Dominguez, CA 90220-6189

310-604-0777 Fax: 310-537-3679

The Dial Corp.

Marie Shubin 15101 North Scottsdale Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Toll free: 1-800-258-DIAL (3425) Toll free:1-800-528-0849 www.dialcorp.com

Diamond Multimedia

835 Sinclair Frontage Road Milpitas, CA 95035 541-967-2450

Toll free: 1-800-727-8772 Fax: 408-325-7070 www.diamondmm.com

Diamond of California

Donna Samelson, Manager 1050 South Diamond Street Stockton, CA 95201 209-467-6260

Fax: 209-467-6205

E-mail:

dsamelso@diamondofcalifornia.com www.diamondofcalifornia.com

Diet Center Worldwide, Inc.

395 Springside Drive Akron, OH 44333 330-665-5861 Fax: 330-666-2197

Digital Equipment Corp.

20555 State Hwy 249 Houston, TX 77070 Toll free: 1-800-332-4636

Toll free: 1-800-344-4825 (Digital)

www.digital.com

Dillard's, Inc.

1600 Cantrell Road Little Rock, AR 72201 501-376-5200 Fax: 501-376-5917 www.dillards.com

Diners Club

183 Inverness Drive West Englewood, CO 80111

303-799-9000 Toll free: 1-800-234-6377 Fax: 303-649-2891

www.dinerclubus.com

Dlink Systems

53 Discovery Drive Irvine, CA 92618 949-788-0805

Toll free: 1-800-326-1688

Fax: 949-753-7033

E-mail: tech@irvine.dlink.com

www.dlink.com

Dole Food Company, Inc.

Karen Brill, Manager, Consumer Center

One Dole Drive

Westlake Village, CA 91362-7300

818-874-4000

Toll free: 1-800-232-8888 Fax: 818-874-4997 www.dole.com

Dollar Rent A Car Systems, Inc.

Charles Boyce Customer Center

CIMS 7082, 5330 East 31st Street

PO Box 33167 Tulsa, OK 74153-1167

918-669-3000 918-669-8596

Toll free: 1-800-800-5252 Toll free: 1-800-800-6080 Fax: 918-669-8596

E-mail: cboyce@dollar.com

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David Brandon, CEO & Chairman Customer Service PO Box 997 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48106 313-930-3030

313-930-3030

Toll free: 1-888-DOMINOS www.dominos.com

Doubleday Direct, Inc.

Robert Posch, Jr., Vice President 401 Franklin Avenue Garden City, NY 11530 516-873-4628 Fax: 516-873-4384

E-mail:

robert.posch@doubledaydirect.com www.booksonline.com

Dow Brands

Consumer Affairs PO Box 68511 Indianapolis, IN 46268-0511

317-260-2000 Toll free: 1-800-428-4795

Fax: 317-873-8564 www.dowclean.com

▲ Dr Pepper/Seven Up, Inc.

Phillippa Dworkin, Vice President, Corporate Communications 5301 Legacy Drive PO Box 869077 (75086-9077) Plano, TX 75024 972-673-7000

Toll free: 1-800-527-7096 Fax: 972-673-7171

E-mail: phillippa_dworkin@dpsu.com

www.drpepper.com

Drug Emporium, Inc.

Jane Lagusch, Vice President 155 Hidden Ravines Drive Powell, OH 43065 740-548-7080, ext. 104 Fax: 740-548-6651

E-mail: jlagusch@drugemporium.com

www.drugemporium.com

Dunkin Donuts of America/ Baskin Robbins

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Dunlop Tire Corp.

Bob Pokrzyk, Manager, Consumer Affairs PO Box 1109 Buffalo, NY 14240-1109 716-639-5439

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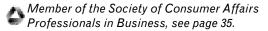
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Lane Furniture

Bill West, Vice President 701 Fifth Street PO Box 151 Altavista, VA 24517 804-369-5641 Fax: 804-369-3677 www.lanefurniture.com

La-Z-Boy, Inc.

Beth Rupp, Supervisor of Consumer Services 1284 North Telegraph Road Monroe, MI 48162-3309

734-242-1444

E-mail: cservice@la-z-boy.com

www.la-z-boy.com

Lee Apparel

9001 West 67th Street Merriam, KS 66202 913-384-4000

L'eggs Products (Division of Sara Lee Corp.)

Carol Brown, Manager, Consumer Relations PO Box 450 401 Hanes Mill Rd Winston-Salem, NC 27105 Toll free: 1-800-925-3447 Fax: 336-519-2154 www.leggs.com

LEGO Systems, Inc.

Lois B. Ritchotte, Senior Manager Consumer Affairs 555 Taylor Road PO Box 1600 Enfield, CT 06083-1600 Toll free: 1-800-422-5346

Toll free: 1-800-422-5346 Fax: 860-763-7754 www.lego.com

Leichtung Workshops, Inc.

5604 Alameda Place, NE Albuquerque, NM 87113

216-831-6191

Toll free: 1-800-321-6840 Fax: 505-821-7331

Lennox Industries, Inc.

Bob Schjerven, President & COO PO Box 799900 Dallas, TX 75379-9900 972-497-5000 Fax: 972-497-5299

Fax: 9/2-49/-5299 www.davelennox.com

Lever Brothers Co.

Consumer Services 800 Sylvan Avenue Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632 Toll free: 1-800-598-1223 Toll free: 1-800-598-5005 www.unilever.com

Levi Strauss & Co.

1155 Battery Street San Francisco, CA 94111 Toll free: 1-800-USA-LEVI E-mail: www.levi.com

Levolor Home Fashion

4110 Premier Drive High Point, NC 27265

336-812-8181

Toll free: 1-800-LEVOLOR

www.lev.com

Lexmark International

740 New Circle Road Bldg. 004-2 Lexington, KY 40550 606-232-3000 Fax: 606-232-2873 www.lexmark.com

Liberty Mutual Insurance Group

Krista Young, Senior Consumer Affairs Consultant 175 Berkeley Street



Boston, MA 02117-0140

617-357-9500

Toll free: 1-800-344-0197 ext. 41015

Fax: 617-574-6688

E-mail: PresidentialSvcTeam @LibertyMutual.com www.libertymutual.com

Lillian Vernon Corp.

2600 International Parkway Virginia Beach, VA 23452

757-430-1500

Toll free: 1-800-285-5555 (orders) Toll free: 1-800-505-2250 (customer

TDD/TTY toll free: 1-800-285-5536

Fax: 757-430-1010

E-mail: LVCcustsrv@aol.com www.lillianvernon.com

The Limited, Inc.

Vice President Three Limited Parkway Columbus, OH 43230 614-415-7000

🕰 Lincoln Electric Co.

John Sichko, Acting Service Manager Machine and Consumables 22801 St. Claire Avenue Cleveland, OH 44117 216-383-2519

Toll free: 1-800-833-7353 Fax: 216-481-2309

E-mail:john.sichko@lincolnelectric.com www.lincolnelectric.com

L.L. Bean, Inc.

Casco Street Freeport, ME 04033-0001 207-865-4761

Toll free: 1-800-341-4341 TDD toll free: 1-800-545-0090 E-mail: Ilbean@Ilbean.com

www.llbean.com

Long John Silver's Restaurants Inc.

Bruce Hinton, Senior Director PO Box 11988 101 Yorkshire Drive Lexington, KY 40579-1988 606-388-6000 606-388-6300

E-mail: bhinton@lgsilvers.com

www.ljsilvers.com

L'Oreal Cosmetics

Division of Cosmair, Inc. PO Box 98 Westfield, NJ 07091-9987

Toll free: 1-800-332-2036 Toll free: 1-800-631-7358 (L'Oreal

Hair)

Fax: 732-499-2599

🔼 Los Angeles Times

Times Mirror Square Los Angeles, CA 90053 213-237-5000

Lotus Development Corp.

55 Cambridge Parkway Cambridge, MA 02142

617-577-8500

Toll free in MA: 1-800-205-9933 Toll free: 1-800-223-0303 (training/

resellers only)

Toll free: 1-800-988-2500 (technical support)

Toll free: 1-800-346-3508 (customer

Toll free: 1-800-356-9866 (in Canada)

www.lotus.com

M

Macromedia, Inc.

600 Townsend Street San Francisco, CA 94103 415-252-2000 (general office) 415-252-9080 (technical support)

Toll free: 1-800-470-7211 Fax: 415-703-0924 www.macromedia.com

Macy's East

Customer Service 151 West 34th Street New York, NY 10001 212-695-4400

Toll free: 1-800-526-1202 www.macys.com

Macy's West

50 O'Farrell Street San Francisco, CA 94102 Toll free: 1-800-877-2655 www.macys.com

Magic Chef-Maytag Appliance Sales Company

240 Edwards Street Cleveland, TN 37311 Toll free: 1-800-688-1120 TDD toll free: 1-800-688-2080

🔼 Mannington Mills, Inc.

Consumer Affairs Department PO Box 30 Salem, NJ 08079 856-935-3000 ext. 5864 Toll free: 1-800-356-6787

Fax: 856-339-6099 www.mannington.com

Marine Midland Bank, N.A.

95 Washington Street Atrium 3 North Buffalo, NY 14273 716-841-1000 Fax: 716-841-2547

Marriott Corp.

One Marriott Drive Washington, DC 20058 Toll free: 1-800-535-4028 (quest

relations) Fax: 402-390-1698 www.marriott.com

Massachusetts Mutual Insurance Co.

Brad Hoffman, Asst. Vice President, Compliance Customer Relations 1295 State Street Springfield, MA 01111

413-744-6165 413-744-3143

Toll free: 1-800-487-7844 Toll free: 1-800-767-1000 Fax: 413-744-8545

E-mail: bhoffman@massmutual.com

www.massmutual.com

MasterCard International

(contact issuing bank) PO Box 28468-0968 St. Louis, MO 63146-0968 Toll free: 1-800-826-2181 (lost or stolen or questions about the MasterCard system)

Toll free: 1-800-300-3069 Fax: 314-542-3724 www.mastercard.com

Matsushita Services Co. of **America**

1 Panasonic Way Secaucus, NJ 07094 201-348-7000

Toll free: 1-800-211-7262

Mattel, Inc.

Brian Beitler, Director, Worldwide Consumer Affairs 333 Continental Boulevard El Segundo, CA 90245-5012

310-252-2000

Toll free: 1-800-524-TOYS (8697)

Fax: 310-252-4190

E-mail: service@mattel.com



Maxicare Health Plans, Inc.

1149 South Broadway Los Angeles, CA 90015

213-742-0900

Toll free: 1-800-234-6294 (member

services only) Fax: 213-365-3499 www.maxicare.com

Maxis

2121 North California Blvd., #600 Walnut Creek, CA 94596

925-933-5630

Toll free: 1-800-245-4525 Fax: 925-927-3736 www.maxis.com

Maxtor

2191 Zanker Road San Jose, CA 95131 303-678-2041 (customer service) Toll free: 1-800-262-9867 Fax: 408-922-2085 www.maxtor.com

May Department Stores Co.

James Harner Senior Vice President 611 Olive Street St. Louis, MO 63101 314-342-6300 Fax: 314-342-3038

www.maycompany.com

Maybelline, Inc.

Division of Cosmair Inc PO Box 1010 Clark, NJ 07066-1010 Toll free: 1-800-944-0730

Mayflower Transit, Inc.

PO Box 26150 Fenton, MO 63026-1350 636-326-3100

Toll free: 1-800-428-1234

Maytag Appliance Sales Company

240 Edwards Street Cleveland, TN 37311 Toll free: 1-800-688-9900 TDD toll free: 1-800-688-2080 www.maytag.com

McCormick & Co., Inc.

Laurie Harrsen, Manager 211 Schilling Circle Hunt Valley, MD 21031 410-527-8753

Toll free: 1-800-632-5847

Fax: 410-527-6005 www.mccormick.com

McCrory Stores, Inc.

Gregory Pepple, Tax Director 12 West Market Street PO Box 15036 York, PA 17405-7036 717-679-4135 Fax: 717-699-4194

E-mail: gdpepple@aol.com

McDonald's Corp.

Beth Petersohn, Manager Kroc Drive Oak Brook, IL 60523 630-623-6198 www.McDonalds.com

McGraw-Hill, Inc.

Customer Service Manager 1221 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10020 Toll free: 1-800-262-4729 Fax: 614-759-3641

www.books.mcgraw-hill.com

MCI WorldCom

Annette Cleckner, Senior Manager 1200 South Hayes Street 11th Floor Arlington, VA 22202

Toll free: 1-800-677-6580

www.mci.com

🔼 McKee Foods Corp.

PO Box 750 Collegedale, TN 37315 Toll free: 1-800-522-4499 Fax: 423-238-7150

McKesson Water Products

Mike Lindop Riley, Vice President Manufacturing 3280 East Foothill Blvd., #400 Pasadena, CA 91109 818-585-1000

Toll free: 1-800-4WATERS Fax: 818-585-8553

Mercruiser

3003 North Perkins Road Stillwater, OK 74075 405-377-1200 Fax: 405-743-6560

Melitta USA, Inc.

Yvette Harris, Manager 13925 58th Street North Clearwater, FL 34624 727-535-2111 Toll free: 1-888-635-4882 Fax: 727-530-7870

Mellon Financial Corp.

Paul Beideman, Executive Vice President One Mellon Bank Center Room 5135 Pittsburgh, PA 15258-0001 412-234-8552

Fax: 412-236-1818

The Mentholatum Co., Inc.

Consumer Affairs Representative 707 Sterling Drive Orchard Park, NY 14127 716-882-7660 Toll free: 1-800-688-7660

Toll free: 1-800-688-7660 Fax: 716-677-9531 www.mentholatum.com

Patricia Royer, Vice President Consumer Affairs 100 Parsons Pond Drive Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 201-269-5953

E-mail: patricia-royer@merck.com

www.merck.com

Mercury Marine

PO Box 1939 Fond Du Lac, WI 54936-1939 920-929-5040 Fax: 920-929-5893

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith

Jan Shaffer PO Box 9084 Princeton, NJ 08543-9084 609-282-6920

🖴 Mervyn's

Colleen Dahle-Hong, Senior Paralegal 22301 Industrial Blvd. Hayward, CA 94541 510-727-5208

Metropolitan Life Matrance Co. Matrance Co.

Rebecca Greene, Assistant Vice President One Madison Avenue Area 7B New York, NY 10010 212-578-5044

Toll free: 1-800-638-5000

Toll free: 1-800-638-5433 Fax: 212-685-8042

E-mail: rgreene@metlife.com

www.metlife.com

☆Michelin North America, ▲Inc.

PO Box 19001 Greenville, SC 29602 Toll free: 1-800-847-3435 www.michelin.com

Michigan Bulb Co.

John Milian, Customer Service Manager 1950 Waldorf, NW Grand Rapids, MI 49550 616-453-5401 Fax: 616-735-2628

Microsoft Corp.

One Microsoft Way Redmond, WA 98052-6399 425-882-8080 206-635-7000 (Windows 95 Support) www.microsoft.com

Mid-Michigan Surgical Supply

595 North Avenue Battle Creek, MI 49017 616-962-9541

Toll free: 1-800-445-5820 Fax: 616-926-9650

Midas International Corp.

Jim Crum, Manager 1300 Arlington Heights Rd Itasca, IL 60143

Toll free: 1-800-621-0144 Fax: 800-450-2207

Miles Kimball Co.

Mary Courtois, Customer Service Manager 41 West 8th Avenue Oshkosh, WI 54906-0002 920-231-1992

TDD: 920-231-5506 Fax: 920-231-6915

The Milnot Company

Jean Sellberg, Manager, Consumer Services 100 South Fourth Street

St. Louis, MO 63102 314-655-2100

Toll free: 1-877-MILNOT1
Toll free: 1-877- BEECH-NUT

Fax: 314-655-2201 www.milnot.com

Milton Bradley

See Also: Hasbro, Inc.

Milton Bradley

Consumer Affairs Department PO Box 200 Pawtucket, RI 02862 413-525-6411 (headquarters) Toll free: 1-888-836-7025 Fax: 401-431-8082

E-mail:

consumer_support@hasboro.com www.hasbro.com

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Peter Longueira, National Customer Service Manager Consumer Products Group 101 Williams Drive Ramsey, NJ 07446 201-825-4000 www.minoltausa.com

Minwax/Sherwin-Williams

10 Mountain View Road Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458-1934 Toll free: 1-800-526-0495

Fax: 201-818-7605 www.minwax.com

Mitsubishi Electronics America, Inc.

9351 Jeronimo Road Irvine, CA 92618 Toll free: 1-800-332-2119 Fax: 949-465-6147 www.mitsubishi-tv.com

M&M/Mars, Inc.

Lesley Verdi, Consumer Response Manager 800 High Street Hackettstown, NJ 07840 908-852-1000 Toll free: 1-800-222-0293 E-mail: lesleyverdi@effem.com

www.m-ms.com

Mobil Oil Corp.

Otis Williams, Customer Relations Manager 3225 Gallows Road Fairfax, VA 22037 Toll free: 1-800-662-4592

Mobil Oil Credit Corp.

R.D. Bahr, Credit Services Manager 11300 Corporate Avenue Lenexa, KS 66219-1385 Toll free: 1-800-225-9547

Fax: 703-846-6002

Monet Group Inc. Crystal Brand Jewelry Group

3400 Pawtucket Avenue East Providence, RI 02860 401-434-4500

Monsanto Co.

800 North Lindbergh Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63167 314-694-1000 www.monsanto.com

Montgomery Ward

Customer Service 535 West Chicago Avenue Chicago, IL 60671 312-467-2000 Fax: 312-467-2175

Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co.

2 World Trade Center 66th Floor New York, NY 10048 Toll free: 1-800-733-2307

Morton International

100 North Riverside Plaza Chicago, IL 60606 312-807-2693 Fax: 312-807-2899 www.morton.com

Motts, Inc.

PO Box 3800 Stamford, CT 06905 203-968-7500

Toll free: 1-800-426-4891 www.motts.com

Movado Group, Inc.

Holly Russo, Director 125 Chubb Avenue Lyndhurst, NJ 07071 201-460-4800 Fax: 201-460-3832

www.vizio.com (for Vizio watches)

Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York (MONY)

1740 Broadway New York, NY 10019 212-708-2000 Toll free: 1-800-487-6669 (D.I./Life/

Medical) www.mony.com

Mutual of Omaha Insurance Co.

Elizabeth Powell, Vice President Customer Service Mutual of Omaha Plaza Omaha, NE 68175 402-351-5625

Toll free: 1-800-775-6000 Fax: 402-351-3768

E-mail:

elizabeth.powell@mutualofomaha.com www.mutualofomaha.com

N

Nabisco Foods Group

Sandra Lowe, Manager, Response Consumer & Scientific Affairs Department 100 DeForest Avenue East Hanover, NJ 07936 Toll free: 1-800-NABISCO

Fax: 973-503-2202 www.nabiscoworld.com

National Amusements,

William Towey, Senior Vice President 200 Elm Street Dedham, MA 02026 781-461-1600 Fax: 781-326-6899

National Car Rental System, Inc.

Regina Barr, Manager, Customer Services 7700 France Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55435 612-893-6480

Toll free: 1-800-468-3334 Fax: 612-830-2936

E-mail: barrr@nationalcar.com

National Presto Industries, Inc.

Randy Lieble, Treasurer 3925 North Hastings Way Eau Claire, WI 54703-3703 715-839-2121 Fax: 715-839-2122

National Fuel Gas Company

Quality Assurance Department 10 Lafayette Square Buffalo, NY 14203 Toll free: 1-800-453-3513

Fax: 716-857-7061

www.nationalfuelgas.com

NBC

30 Rockefeller Plaza New York, NY 10112 212-664-2333

NCE Computer Group

1975 Friendship Drive Suite C El Cajon, CA 72020-1130 619-212-3000

Toll free: 1-800-458-0300

Near East Food Products (Division of Quaker Oats)

321 N. Clark Street Leominster, MA 01453 312-222-7111

www.quakeroats.com

Neiman-Marcus

PO Box 729080 Dallas, TX 75372 214-761-2660

Toll free: 1-800-685-6695 Fax: 214-761-2650

www.neimanmarcus.com

Nestle USA

Consumer Services Center 800 North Brand Blvd Glendale, CA 91203 Toll free: 1-800-225-2270 Fax: 818-549-6330 www.nestleusa.com

Netopia, Inc.

2470 Mariner Square Loop Alameda, CA 94501 510-814-5100 Fax: 510-814-5020 www.netopia.com

Neutrogena Corp.

Consumer Information Center 5760 West 96th Street Los Angeles, CA 90045 Toll free: 1-800-582-4048 Fax: 310-337-5564 www.neutrogena.com

Nevada Bell

645 East Plumb Lane Reno, NV 89502 775-333-4339 Fax: 775-333-2364

The New England

John G. Small, President 501 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116 617-578-2810 Fax: 617-578-5511

New York Magazine (Division of Pre-Media)

444 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10022 212-508-0700

New York Times Co.

Steph Jespersen, Manager 229 West 43rd Street New York, NY 10036 212-556-7173

Newport News, Inc.

George Ittner, President and CEO 5000 City Line Road Hampton, VA 23661 757-827-7010 Fax: 757-825-4106

Newsweek, Inc.

PO Box 59967 Boulder, CO 80322

Toll free: 1-800-631-1040 (subscriber

service) Fax: 201-335-5971

Nexxus Products Co.

PO Box 1274 Santa Barbara, CA 93116-9976 805-968-6900 Toll free: 1-800-444-6399 Fax: 805-968-6540 www.nexxusproducts.com

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Lynda Danovitz, Director, Customer Service Training Dey's Centennial Plaza PO Box 5300 Syracuse, NY 13250-5300 315-460-7015 Fax: 315-460-7147

E-mail: danovitzl@nimo.com

www.nimo.com

Nike, Inc.

Nike/World Campus 1 Bowerman Drive Beaverton, OR 97005-6453 503-671-6453

Toll free: 1-800-344-6453 E-mail: www.nike.com

Nine West Group Inc.

Customer Relations 9 West Plaza 1129 Westchester Avenue White Plains, NY 10604-3529 914-640-6400

Toll free: 1-800-260-2227 (customer

service) Fax: 914-640-6069 www.ninewest.com

Norelco Consumer Products Co. (Division of Philips Electronics North America Corp.)

Julie Brown, Manager 1010 Washington Blvd. PO Box 120015

Stamford, CT 06912-0015 Toll free: 1-800-243-7884 Fax: 203-975-1812

Northwest Airlines

C6590

5101 Northwest Drive St. Paul, MN 55111-3034 612-726-2046

Toll free: 1-800-225-2525

TDD toll free: 1-800-328-2298 (reser-

vations)
www.nwa.com

Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Thomas Towers, Director of Public Relations 720 East Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53202

414-299-7179 Fax: 414-299-2463

www.northwesternmutual.com

Norwegian Cruise Line

Alice Cain-Moore, Manager Guest Relations

7665 Corporate Center Drive Miami, FL 33126 305-436-4000

Toll free: 1-800-327-7030

Novartis Consumer Health, Inc.

560 Morris Avenue Building F

Summit, NJ 07901-1312

Toll free: 1-800-452-0051 (Over-the-

counter products) Fax: 908-598-7583 www.novartis.com

Novartis Crop Protection

410 Swing Road Greensboro, NC 27409 336-632-6000

Toll free: 1-800-334-9481 www.novartis.com

Novartis Pharmaceuticals

59 Route 10

East Hanover, NJ 07936 Toll free: 1-800-742-2422 www.novartis.com

Novell, Inc.

1555 North Technology Way Orem, UT 84097 Toll free: 1-800-638-9273

Toll free: 1-800-858-4000 (Tech

Support) Fax: 801-228-5176

Nu Tone, Inc.

Joe Falco, Director of Consumer Relations

Madison and Redbank Roads

Cincinnati, OH 45227 513-527-5231 Fax: 513-527-5122 E-mail: ask@nutone.com

www.nutone.com

The NutraSweet/Equal Co.

PO Box 2986

Chicago, IL 60654-0986 Toll free: 1-800-321-7254

(NutraSweet)

Toll free: 1-800-323-5316 (Equal)

www.equal.com; www.nutrasweet.com

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Toll free: 1-800-OKIDATA (654-3282 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Olan Mills, Inc.

Kim Harris, Director 4325 Amnicola Highway PO Box 23456

Chattanooga, TN 37422-3456

423-622-5141

Toll free: 1-800-251-6320 Fax: 423-499-3864

E-mail: omcuserv.@cdc.net www.olanmills.com

Olympus America

Barbara Abe, Manager 2 Corporate Center Drive Melville, NY 11747 516-844-5000

Toll free: 1-800-622-6372 Fax: 516-844-5262

Ontrack Computer Systems

9023 Colombine Road Eden Prairie, MN 55347 612-937-2121

Orkin

Carl Jackson, Manager 2170 Piedmont Road, NE Atlanta, GA 30324 404-329-7400

Toll free: 1-800-346-7546 Fax: 404-633-2315

Ortho, Roundup and Greensweep

Ed Billmaier, Director Consumer Service 14111 Scottslawn Road Marysville, OH 43041 Toll free: 1-800-225-2883 www.ortho.com

Orville Redenbacher

PO Box 4800 Fullerton, CA 92834 714-680-1431

OSCO Drugs, Subsidiary of American Stores

PO Box 27447 Salt Lake City, UT 84127-0447

801-961-5600

Toll free: 1-800-541-2863 Fax: 801-531-0768

Outboard Marine Corp.

Henry Hegel, Director 100 Sea Horse Drive Waukegan, IL 60085 847-689-6200 Fax: 847-689-5489 www.omc-online.com

Owens Corning World Headquarters

One Owens Corning Parkway Toledo, OH 43659-0001 419-248-8000

www.owenscorning.com

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Pac-Fab, Inc.

Hugh D. Smith, Director of Customer Support 1620 Hawkins Ave Sanford, NC 27330 919-774-4151 919-775-4206 Fax: 919-775-1127 www.pacfab.com

△Pacific Bell

Eva Holding, Director Regulatory & Excutive Customer Relations 140 New Montgomery Street

San Francisco, CA 94015 Toll free in CA: 1-800-791-6661 Toll free: 1-800-697-6500 (nationwide)

PaineWebber Inc.

Client Relations 1000 Harbor Blvd. 7th Floor Weehawken, NJ 07087

201-902-4936

Toll free: 1-800-354-9103 Fax: 201-902-5795

Paper Direct, Inc.

See: Current, Inc.

Paramount Cards Inc.

Customer Service 400 Pine Street Pawtucket, RI 02860 410-726-0800

Toll free: 1-800-343-2239 Fax: 401-726-0920

E-mail:

paramount_cards@compuserve.com www.paramountcards.com

Parker Brothers

See: Hasbro, Inc.

Pella Corp.

102 Main Street Pella, IA 50219 515-628-1000 Fax: 515-628-6070

Pennzoil-Quaker State Company

Consumer Information PO Box 2967 Houston, TX 77252-2967

713-546-4000

Toll free: 1-800-990-9811 Fax: 713-546-4325

www.pennzoil-quakerstate.com

Pepsi-Cola Co.

Christine Jones, Manager 1 Pepsi Way

Somers, NY 10589-2201 Toll free: 1-800-433-2652 Fax: 914-767-6177 www.pepsico.com

Perdue Farms

Stephanie Burton, Consumer Relations Coordinator PO Box 1537 Salisbury, MD 21802 410-543-3000

Toll free: 1-800-473-7383

www.perdue.com

The Perrier Group

David Muscato 777 West Putnam Avenue Greenwich, CT 06830 203-531-4100 Fax: 203-863-0256

Pfizer Inc.

235 East 42nd Street New York, NY 10017-5755 212-573-2323 www.pfizer.com

Pharmacia and UpJohn Corp.

7000 Portage Road Kalamazoo, MI 49001 Toll free: 1-800-253-8600 www.pnu.com

Pharmavite Corporation

Consumer Affairs 15451 San Fernando Mission Blvd. Mission Hills, CA 91346 Toll free: 1-800-276-2878

Toll free: 1-800-314-HERB Fax: 818-837-8609 www.vitamin.com

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Nancy Zimbalist, Supervisor Consumer Affairs 120 Park Avenue New York, NY 10017 917-663-2883

Toll free: 1-800-343-0975 Fax: 917-663-5362 www.philipmorris.com

Philips Lighting Company

Toni Hoffman, Corporate Quality Analyst 200 Franklin Square Drive

Somerset, NJ 08875-6800

732-563-3081

Toll free: 1-800-555-0050 Fax: 732-563-3116

www.lighting.philips.com/nam

Phillips Petroleum Co.

16 Phillips Building Bartlesville, OK 74004 918-661-1215 Fax: 918-662-2075 www.phillips66.com

Phillips-Van Heusen Corp.

1001 Frontier Road, Suite 100 Bridgewater, NJ 08807 908-685-0050

Fax: 908-704-8045

The Pillsbury Company

MS 2866 200 South 6th Street Minneapolis, MN 55402 612-330-4966

Toll free: 1-800-767-4466 www.pillsbury.com

Pioneer Electronics Service, Inc.

Manager, Customer service PO Box 1760

Long Beach, CA 90810

310-952-2561

Toll free: 1-800-421-1404 Fax: 310-952-2821

www.pioneerelectronics.com

Pirelli Tire Corporation

Manager 300 George Street New Haven, CT 06511 203-784-2200

Fax: 203-784-2408

Playskool

See Also: Hasbro, Inc.

Playskool (Division of Hasbro)

Consumer Affairs Department PO Box 200

Pawtucket, RI 02862

Toll free: 1-800-242-7276 (Headquar-

Toll free: 1-800-752-9755 (Consumer

Affairs)

Fax: 401-431-8082

E-mail:

consumer_support@hasboro.com

www.hasbro.com

Playtex Apparel, Inc.

Patti Rossi, Manager Consumer Affairs PO Box 631 MS 1526

Dover, DE 19903-0631 302-674-6000

302-674-6381 Toll free: 1-800-537-9955

Fax: 302-674-6022

Polaroid Corp.

201 Burlington Road Bedford, MA 01730

781-386-2000 (collect calls accepted within MA)

Toll free outside MA: 1-800-343-5000

Fax: 781-386-5605 www.polaroid.com

Polo/Ralph Lauren Corp.

DeCarla Mittman, Consumer Relations Manager 4100 Beachwood Drive Greensboro, NC 27410 Toll free: 1-800-775-7656 Fax: 910-632-9097

Price Chopper Supermarkets

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Shannon Busby, Marketing Coordinator

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Ray Weier, Manager Consumer Relations Consumer Relations 200 Wilmot Road Deerfield, IL 60015 847-914-2704 Toll free: 1-800-289-2273

Fax: 847-914-3105 www.walgreens.com

烙 Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Becky Elliott 702 SW Eighth Street Bentonville, AR 72716-0117 501-273-4000

Toll free: 1-800-WAL-MART

Fax: 501-621-2063

E-mail: letters@wal-mart.com

www.wal-mart.com

Walter Drake, Inc.

4519 Edison Avenue Colorado Springs, CO 80915 719-596-3140

Toll free: 1-800-525-9291 Fax: 719-637-4984

Wang Laboratories, Inc.

290 Concord Road Billerca, MA 01821-4130

978-967-5000

Toll free: 1-800-639-9264 Fax: 978-967-0829

→ Warner-Lambert **Consumer Group**

Chip Horner, Director, Consumer **Affairs** 182 Tabor Road Morris Plains, NJ 07950 973-385-2000

Toll free: 1-800-223-0182 (Nonprescription consumer products) TDD toll free: 1-800-343-7805

Fax: 973-385-6667 www.prodhelp.com

Weider Health and Fitness

21100 Erwin Street Woodland Hills, CA 91367

818-884-6800 Fax: 818-704-5734

Weight Watchers Gourmet **Food Company**

PO Box 10 Boise, ID 83707

Toll free: 1-800-762-0228 (Weight Watchers frozen entrees and frozen

desserts)

Toll free: 1-800-488-0050 (The Budget Gourmet frozen entrees, dinners,

and side dishes)

www.weightwatchers.com

Wendy's International, Inc.

PO Box 256

Dublin, OH 43017-0256 614-764-3100

Toll free: 1-800-443-7266 Fax: 614-764-6707 www.wendys.com

The West Bend Company

Joanne Turchany, Manager of Consumer Information 400 Washington Street West Bend, WI 53095 262-334-2311

Fax: 262-334-6800 www.westbend.com

Western Digital

8105 Irvine Center Drive Irvine, CA 92618

Toll free: 1-800-832-4778 (customer

Toll free: 1-800-275-4932 (customer

support)

Western Union Financial Services, Inc.

Karen Walters, Director 13022 Hollenberg Drive





Bridgeton, MO 63044 314-291-8000

Toll free: 1-800-634-1311 Fax: 314-291-5271

F-mail:

karen.walters@firstdatacorp.com

www.firstdatacorp.com

WestPoint Stores

Jackie Smith, Consumer Affairs Coordinator PO Box 609 West Point, GA 31833-0609 Toll free: 1-800-533-8229 Fax: 706-645-7783

Wet Seal Inc., dba Contempo Casuals

www.martex.com

26972 Borbank Road Foothill Ranch, CA 92610 714-699-3900 Fax: 714-583-0715

Whirlpool Corp.

2303 Pipestone Road Benton Harbor, MI 49022-2427 616-923-7700

Toll free: 1-800-253-1301 Fax: 616-923-7829 www.whirlpool.com

Whitehall-Robins Health Care

Carol R. Manley, Assoc. Director PO Box 26609 Richmond, VA 23261-6609 Toll free: 1-800-322-3129 http://healthfront.com

Wilke/Thornton, Inc.

545 Metro Place South Dublin, OH 43017 614-792-6900

Toll free: 1-800-860-6901 Fax: 614-792-6901

E-mail: info@wilke-thornton.com www.wilke-thornton.com

Williams-Sonoma

10000 Covington Cross Drive Las Vegas, NV 89144 702-360-7000

Toll free: 1-800-541-1262 Fax: 702-360-7091

Wilson Jones

See: ACCO Brands Inc.

Winn Dixie Stores, Inc.

Mickey Clerc, Director of Public Relations

Box B Jacksonville, FL 32203 904-783-5000 www.winn-dixie.com

Winnebago Industries

Steven Evenson, Service Operations Manager 605 W. Crystal Lake Road PO Box 152 Forest City, IA 50436-0152

515-582-6939

Toll free: 1-800-537-1885 Fax: 515-582-6704

E-mail: or@winnabagoind.com www.winnebagoind.com

Wrangler

PO Box 21488 Greensboro, NC 27420 336-332-3564 Fax: 336-332-3223

E-mail: wranglerweb@vfc.com

www.wrangler.com

🎒 Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co.

Barbara Zibell, Consumer Affairs Administrator 410 North Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL 60611 312-644-2121 Fax: 312-644-0015 www.wrigley.com

WUIP International

5200 Keller Springs Road, Suite 1131 Dallas, TX 75248 972-233-0966

Wyse Technology

3471 North First Street San Jose, CA 95134 408-473-1200 408-435-2770 (service and parts)

Fax: 408-473-1222

X

Xerox Corporation

PO Box 1600 800 Long Ridge Road Stamford, CT 06904 203-968-3000

Toll free: 1-800-275-9376

Toll free: 1-800-822-2200 (supplies)

www.xerox.com

Xircom USA

2300 Corporate Center Drive Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 805-376-9200 Fax: 805-376-9100 www.xircom.com/tech

Y

Yamaha Motor Corporation

Lindsey Foster, Division Manager 6555 Katella Avenue Cypress, CA 90630-5101 714-761-7435

Toll free: 1-800-962-7926 Fax: 714-761-7559 www.yamaha-motor.com

Yashica

See: Kyocera Optics, Inc.

Ζ

Zale Corporation

See: Gordon's Jewlers

Zenith Electronics Corp.

1000 Milwaukee Avenue Glenview, IL 60025 256-772-1515

Toll free: 1-888-3 ZENITH

E-mail:

Customer.Service@zenith.com

www.zenith.com

Zenith Packard Bell

8285 West 3500 South Magna, UT 84044 Toll free: 1-800-227-3360 www.packardbell.com



Car Manufacturers and Dispute Resolution Programs

If you have a problem with a car purchased from a local dealer, first try to work it out with the dealer. If the problem is not resolved, contact the manufacturer's regional or national office. Ask for the consumer affairs office. Many of these are listed in this section.

If you are still unsuccessful, consider contacting the other organizations in this section that handle consumer complaints. These programs are usually called alternative dispute resolution programs. Generally, there are three types: arbitration, conciliation and mediation. These three methods of dispute resolution vary. Ask for a copy of the rules of the program before you file your case. Generally, the decisions of the arbitrators are binding and must be accepted by both the customer and the business. However, in other forms of dispute resolution, only the business is

required to accept the decision. In some programs, decisions are not binding on either party.

Remember, before contacting one of these programs, try to resolve the complaint with the company. If you still cannot resolve your problem, contact one of the third-party resolution programs. Be sure to contact your local or state consumer agency to see if your state offers state-run dispute resolution programs.

If you suspect you have a vehicle problem that might fall under your state's lemon law, call your local or state consumer protection agency (page 70) to find out about your rights under the lemon law. If you have a safety problem with your vehicle, report it to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Auto Safety Hotline (NHTSA). NHTSA also provides recall and crash test information, but does not handle complaints.

Acura

Customer Relations Department 1919 Torrance Blvd. 500-2S-2A Torrance, CA 90501-2746 Toll free: 1-800-382-2238 Toll free:1-800-594-8500 (roadside assist)

Fax: 310-783-3535 www.acura.com

Alfa-Romeo Distributors of North America, Inc.

Alfa Romeo Distributors of North America, Inc. 7505 Exchange Drive Orlando, FL 32809 407-856-5000 Fax: 407-856-5000

E-mail: info@isuzu.com www.alfa-romeo.com

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (Corporate Office) Consumer Affairs Department 1919 Torrance Blvd. Torrance, CA 90501-2746 310-783-2000 Toll free: 1-800-999-1009 Fax: 310-783-3273

Michigan (except for Upper Peninsula), Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Central Zone 4
Customer Relations Department
101 South Stanfield Road
Troy, OH 45373-8010
937-332-6250
Toll free: 1-800-999-1009
Fax: 937-332-1010

Fax: 937-332-1010 www.honda.com

American Honda Motor Co., Inc. Mid-Atlantic Zone Customer Relations Department 902 Wind River Lane, Suite 200 Gaithersburg, MD 20878-1974 301-990-2020 Fax: 301-990-6808

Fax: 301-990-6808 www.honda.com

Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York State (excluding NY City, its five boroughs, Long Island, Westchester County), Connecticut (excluding Fairfield County), Massachusetts, Rhode Island American Honda Motor Co., Inc. New England Zone 9 Customer Relations Department 555 Old County Road Windsor Locks, CT 06096-0465 860-623-3310 Toll free: 1-800-999-1009 (recalls)

Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Hawaii, Alaska
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Northwest Zone 2
Customer Relations Department
12439 NE Airport Way
Portland, OR 97220
503-256-0943
Fax: 503-251-1348
www.honda.com

Texas (excluding El Paso), Arkansas (excluding Fayetteville, Bentonville, Fort Smith, Jonesboro), Oklahoma (Lawton, Ardmore), Louisiana, Mississippi
American Honda Motor Co., Inc. South Central Zone 3
Customer Relations Department 4529 Royal Lane Irving, TX 75063-2583
972-929-5481

Car Manufacturers and Dispute Resolution Programs

Fax: 972-929-5403 www.honda.com

Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida American Honda Motor Co., Inc. Southeastern Zone 7 **Customer Relations Department** 1500 Morrison Parkway Alpharetta, GA 30201-2199 770-442-2045 Toll free: 1-800-999-1009 (recalls)

Fax: 770-442-2443 www.honda.com

Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nevada, Texas (El Paso) American Honda Motor Co., Inc. West Central Zone 10 **Customer Relations Department** 1600 South Abilene Street, Suite D Aurora, CO 80012. 303-696-3935 Fax: 303-696-3960 www.honda.com

American Honda Motor Co., Western Zone **Customer Relations Department** 700 Van Ness Blvd Torrence, CA 90509-2260 323-781-4565 www.honda.com

American Isuzu Motors, Inc.

American Isuzu Motors, Inc. 13340 183rd Street Cerritos, CA 90702 502-229-5000 www.isuzu.com

National Office 13340 183rd Street P.O. Box 6007 Cerritos, CA 90702-6007 Toll free: 1-800-255-6727

Fax: 562-229-5455 www.isuzu.com

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey (north of Toms River), New York, Rhode Island, Vermont American Isuzu Motors, Inc. Northeast Regional Office Regional Customer Relations 3 Stewart Court

Denville, NJ 07834 973-328-3000

Toll free: 1-800-255-6727 (owner

relations) Fax: 973-328-5880 www.isuzu.com

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina American Isuzu Motors, Inc. Southeastern Region Regional Customer Relations

205 Hembree Park Drive Roswell, GA 30076 770-475-1995

Toll free: 1-800-255-6727 (Owner

Relations) Fax: 770-442-8743 www.isuzu.com

California, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho (northern), Nevada, Oregon, Washington

American Isuzu Motors, Inc., Western Regional Office Regional Customer Relations One Technology Drive Building I, Suite 821 Irvine, CA 92618 949-788-2700

Toll free: 1-800-255-6727 (Owner

Relations) Fax: 949-788-2711 www.isuzu.com

American Motors Corp.

See: Daimler Chrysler Motors Corp. Zone and Corporate Offices

🔼 American Suzuki Motor Corp.

Customer Relations Department P.O. Box 1100 Brea, CA 92822-1100 714-996-7040, ext. 380 (motorcycles) Toll free: 1-800-934-0934 (automotive

Fax: 714-524-2512 www.suzuki.com

Audi of America, Inc.

Client Relations 3800 Hamlin Road Auburn Hills, MI 48326 Toll free: 1-800-822-2834 Fax: 248-340-5140 www.audiusa.com

BMW of North America,

BMW of North America, Inc. Corporate Office 300 Chestnut Ridge Rd. Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07675 201-307-4000 Toll free: 1-800-831-1117 (BMW

Customer Service Center) Fax: 201-930-8362

www.bmwusa.com

Buick Division General Motors Corp.

Customer Assistance Center 7401 E. Ben White Blvd, Blda 3 Austin, TX 78740

Toll free: 1-800-521-7300

Toll free: 1-800-252-1112 (roadside

assistance)

TDD toll free: 1-800-832-8425

Fax: 512-356-1021 www.buick.com

Cadillac Motor Car Division

Customer Assistance Center P.O. Box 33169 Detroit, MI 48232-5169

Toll free: 1-800-458-8006

Toll free: 1-800-882-1112 (roadside

assistance)

TDD toll free: 1-800-TDD-CMCC

www.cadillac.com

Chevrolet/Geo Motor Division, General Motors Corp.

Customer Assistance Center P.O. Box 33170 Detroit, MI 48232-0517

Toll free: 1-800-222-1020

Toll free: 1-800-243-8872 (roadside

assistance)

TDD toll free: 1-800-TDD-CHEV

Fax: 313-556-5108 www.chevrolet.com

Daihatsu America, Inc.

Consumer Affairs Department 20 Centerpointe Drive, Suite 120 La Palma, CA 90623 714-690-4700

Toll free: 1-800-777-7070 Fax: 714-690-4720

Daimler Chrysler Motors

See: Chrysler, Plymouth, Dodge, Jeep

Chrysler Customer Center

P.O. Box 21-8004

Auburn Hills, MI 48321-8004 Toll free: 1-800-992-1997 Fax: 248-512-8084

www.chryslercorp.com

Daimler Chrysler Motors Corporation, New Orleans Office One Galleria Blvd. Metairie, LA 70004 504-833-4800



Car Manufacturers and Dispute Resolution Programs

Ferrari North America Inc. Corporate Office 250 Sylvan Avenue Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632 201-816-2600

Fax: 201-816-2626

E-mail: administrative@ferrari.com

www.ferrari.com

→Ford Motor Company

Ford Dispute Settlement Board P.O. Box 5120

Southfield, MI 48086-5120 Toll free: 1-800-688-2429 **Customer Assistance Center**

16800 Executive Plaza Drive P.O. Box 6248 Dearborn, MI 48121

Toll free: 1-800-392-3673 (all makes) Toll free: 1-800-521-4140 (Lincoln and

Merkur only)

TDD toll free: 1-800-232-5952

www.ford.com

🌟 General Motors Corpora-

Corporate Affairs/Community Relations 100 Renaissance Center Detroit, MI 48265 313-667-3800 313-556-5000

GMC Truck Division General Motors Corp.

GMC Truck Division, General Motors

Customer Assistance Center P.O. Box 436008

Pontiac, MI 48343-6008 Toll free: 1-800-462-8782 TDD toll free: 1-800-462-8583

Honda

See: American Honda Motor Co.,

Hyundai Motor America

Consumer Affairs 10550 Talbert Avenue P.O. Box 20850

Fountain Valley, CA 92728-0850

714-965-3000

Toll free: 1-800-633-5151 Fax: 714-965-3861

E-mail: cmd@hma.service.com www.hyundai.usa.com

Isuzu

See: American Isuzu Motors, Inc.

Customer Relations Department U.S. National Headquarters 555 MacArthur Blvd. Mahwah, NJ 07430-2327 201-818-8500

Toll free: 1-800-452-4827 Fax: 201-818-9770 www.jaguar.com

Jeep/Eagle Division of Chrysler Corp.

Customer Relations PO Box 21-8004

Auburn Hills, MI 48321-8004

Fax: 248-512-8084

🔼 Mazda Motor of America,

Mazda N. American Operations Customer Relations Manager

P.O. Box 19734 Irvine, CA 92623-9734 Toll free: 1-800-222-5500 www.mazdausa.com

Mercedes Benz of North America, Inc.

Mercedes Benz USA, Inc. **Customer Assistance Center** 3 Paragon Drive Montvale, NJ 07645 Toll free: 1-800-222-0100

Toll free: 1-800-367-6372 (800-FOR-

MERC)

Fax: 201-476-6213

Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America, Inc.

Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America **Customer Relations** 6400 Katella Avenue Cypress, CA 90630-0064 Toll free: 1-800-MITSU-2000

Nissan Motor Corp. in USA

Nissan North America, Inc. P.O. Box 191

Gardena, CA 90248-0191

310-532-3111

Toll free: 1-800-647-7261 (all con-

sumer inquiries) Fax: 310-771-2025 www.nissan-usa.com

Oldsmobile Division General Motors Corp.

Customer Assistance Network P.O. Box 436006

Pontiac, MI 48343-6006 Toll free: 1-800-442-6537 TDD toll free: 1-800-833-6537 www.oldsmobile.com

Peugeot Motors of America, Inc.

Consumer Relations Overlook at Great Notch 150 Clove Road Little Falls, NJ 07424 973-812-4444

Toll free: 1-800-345-5545 Fax: 973-812-2148

E-mail: peugeot2@bellatlantic.net

www.peugeot.com

Pontiac Division, General Motors Corp.

Customer Assistance Center P.O. Box 33172 Detroit, MI 48232

Toll free: 1-800-762-2737

Toll free: 1-800-762-3743 (roadside

assistance)

TDD toll free: 1-800-833-7668

www.gm.com

Porsche Cars North America, Inc.

Owner Relations 980 Hammond Drive Suite 1000 Atlanta, GA 30328 770-290-3500

Toll free: 1-800-545-8039 Fax: 770-360-3711 www.porsche.com

Saab Cars USA, Inc.

Customer Assistance Center 4405-A International Boulevard Norcross, GA 30093

770-279-0100

Toll free: 1-800-955-9007 Fax: 770-279-6499 www.saabusa.com

Saturn Corp., Division of General Motors Corp.

Saturn Corporation, Division of General Motors Corp.

Saturn Customer Assistance

Center

100 Saturn Parkway Spring Hill, TN 37174 931-486-5050

Toll free: 1-800-553-6000 TDD toll free: 1-800-TDD-6000

Fax: 931-486-5059 www.saturn.com

Schuman Carriage Co.

Hawaii

Schuman Carriage Company, Limited

Car Manufacturers and Dispute Resolution Programs

1234 South Beretania Street P.O. Box 2420 Honolulu, HI 96804 808-592-4464

Fax: 808-592-4494

🌟 Subaru of America, Inc.

National Customer Service Center Subaru Plaza, PO Box 6000 2235 Route 70 West Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 856-488-8500

Toll free: 1-800-782-2783 Fax: 856-488-0485 www.subaru.com

Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc.

Customer Assistance Center Department H200 19001 South Western Avenue Torrance, CA 90509-2991 Toll free: 1-800-331-4331 TDD toll free: 1-800-443-4999

Fax: 310-618-7814 www.toyota.com

Volkswagen of America

Customer Relations 3800 Hamlin Road - 2F02 Auburn Hills, MI 48326 1-800-DRIVE VW Toll free: 1-800-822-8987 Fax: 248-340-4660

www.vw.com

Volvo Cars of North America

Volvo Cars of North America Corporate Office Customer Service P.O. Box 915 7 Volvo Drive, Building A Rockleigh, NJ 07647-0915 Toll free: 1-800-458-1552

Fax: 201-768-8695 www.volvocars.com

Automotive Dispute **Resolution Programs**

Automotive Consumer Action Program (AUTOCAP) 8400Westpark Drive McLean, VA 22102 703-821-7000

Toll free: 1-800-252-6532 Fax: 703-821-7075 www.nada.org

Center for Auto Safety (CAS) Clayton Ditlaw, Executive Director 1825 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 330 Washington, DC 20009 202-328-7700

www.autosafety.org

BBBAUTO LINE

Council of Better Business Bureaus,

4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 800 Arlington, VA 22203-1838

703-276-0100

Toll free: 1-800-955-5100 TDD/TTY: 703-276-1862 Fax: 703-525-8277

E-mail: info@cbbb.bbb.org

www.bbb.org

City, county and state consumer protection offices provide consumers with important services. They mediate complaints, conduct investigations, prosecute offenders of consumer laws, license and regulate a variety of professionals, promote strong consumer protection legislation, provide educational materials and advocate in the consumer interest.

City and county consumer offices are familiar with local businesses, local ordinances and state laws. If there is no local consumer office in your area, contact your state consumer office. State offices, sometimes in a separate department of consumer affairs or the attorney general's or governor's office, are familiar with state laws and look for statewide patterns of problems. Consumer protection offices in the U.S. territories also are included. To save time, call the office before sending in a written complaint. Ask if the office handles the type of complaint you have or if complaint forms are provided. Many offices distribute consumer materials specifically geared to state laws and local issues. Call to obtain available educational information on your problem. This list is arranged in alphabetical order by state name. State, county and city jurisdictions also requlate banking, insurance, securities, utilities, and weights and measures. A listing of these offices starts on page 87.

Also, many states and some cities and counties license or register members of professions such as doctors, lawyers and home improvement contractors, as well as certain types of businesses, including auto repair, debt collection and child day care. These boards issue rules and regulations, prepare and give examinations, issue, deny or revoke licenses, bring disciplinary actions, handle consumer complaints, and provide referral services or consumer education materials to help you select a professional or business.

If you contact a licensing agency about a complaint, the agency will contact the professional on your behalf and might conduct an investigation and take disciplinary action, including probation, license suspension, or license revocation.

To find an occupational or professional licensing board, check your local telephone directory for state, city and county listings under the profession or type of business. Your state or local consumer affairs office can also help you find the right agency.

Alabama State Offices

Dennis Wright, Assistant Attorney General, Consumer Affairs Division Chief Office of the Attorney General 11 South Union Street **Montgomery**, AL 36130 334-242-7334 Toll free in AL: 1-800-392-5658 www.ago.state.al.us

Alaska State Offices

Consumer Protection Unit Office of the Attorney General 1031 West 4th Avenue, Suite 200 **Anchorage**, AK 99501-5903 907-269-5100 Fax: 907-276-8554 www.law.state.ak.us

Arizona State Offices

Sydney Davis, Chief Counsel
Consumer Protection and Advocacy
Section
Office of the Attorney General
1275 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-542-3702
602-542-5763 (consumer information
and complaints)
Toll free in AZ: 1-800-352-8431
TDD: 602-542-5002
Fax: 602-542-4579
www.ag.state.az.us

Noreen Matts, Assistant Attorney General, Consumer Protection Office of the Attorney General 400 West Congress, South Building, Suite 315

Tucson, AZ 85701 520-628-6504 Toll free in AZ: 1-800-352-8431

Fax: 520-628-6532

County Offices

Derick Rapier, County Attorney Greenlee County Attorney's Office PO Box 1717 Clifton, AZ 85533 520-865-4108 Fax: 520-865-4665

Terence Hance, County Attorney Coconino County Attorney's Office 110 East Chernue Avenue Flagstaff, AZ 86001 520-779-6518

Fax: 520-779-5618

Robert Olson, Pinal County Attor-

Pinal County Attorney's Office PO Box 887

Florence, AZ 85232 520-868-6271

Fax: 520-868-6521

Jerry DeRose, County Attorney Gila County Attorney's Office 1400 East Ash Street

Globe, AZ 85501 520-425-3231 Fax: 520-425-3720

Melvin Bowers, County Attorney Navajo County Attorney's Office PO Box 668

Holbrook, AZ 86025

520-524-4026 Fax: 520-524-4244

William Ekstrom, County Attorney Mohave County Attorney's Office 315 North 4th Street PO Box 7000

Kingman, AZ 86402-7000 520-753-0719

Fax: 520-753-2669

Martha Chase, County Attorney Santa Cruz County Attorney's

Office

2150 North Congress Dr, Suite 201

Nogales, AZ 85621 520-761-7850 Fax: 520-761-7851

R. Glenn Buckelew, La Paz County Attorney

La Paz County Attorney's Office 1320 Kofa Avenue PO Box 709 Parker, AZ 85344

520-669-6118 Fax: 520-669-2019

Charles Hastings, County Attorney Yavapai County Attorney's Office Yavapai County Courthouse

255 East Gurley **Prescott**, AZ 86301

520-771-3344 Fax: 520-771-3110

Stephen Udall, County Attorney Apache County Attorney's Office PO Box 637

St. Johns, AZ 85936 520-337-4364, ext. 240 Fax: 520-337-2427

Patricia A. Orozco, County Attorney Yuma County Attorney's Office 168 South Second Avenue Yuma, AZ 85364 520-329-2270 Fax: 520-329-2284

City Offices

Michael Anderson, Deputy City Attorney Consumer Affairs Division Tucson City Attorney's Office 110 East Pennington Street 2nd Floor PO Box 27210

Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

520-791-4886 Fax: 520-791-4991

Arkansas

State Offices

Shelia McDonald, Deputy Attorney General

Consumer Protection Division Office of the Attorney General 323 Center Street, Suite 200

Little Rock, AR 72201

501-682-2341

Voice/TDD toll free in AR: 1-800-482-

8982

Toll free: 1-800-482-8982 TDD: 501-682-6073 Fax: 501-682-8118

E-mail: consumer@ag.state.ar.us

www.ag.state.ar.us

California

State Offices

Kathleen Hamilton, Director California Department of Consumer Affairs

Allalis

400 R Street, Suite 3000 Sacramento, CA 95814

916-445-4465

Toll free in CA: 1-800-952-5210 TDD/TTY: 916-322-1700

www.dca.ca.gov

Partrick Dorais, Acting Chief Bureau of Automotive Repair California Department of Consumer Affairs

10240 Systems Parkway **Sacramento**, CA 95827

916-255-4565

Toll free in CA: 1-800-952-5210 (auto repair only)

TDD: 916-255-1369 www.smogcheck.ca.gov

Bill Rogers, Attorney General Office of the Attorney General Public Inquiry Unit PO Box 944255

Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 916-322-3360

Toll free in CA: 1-800-952-5210

TDD: 916-324-5564 www.caag.state.ca.us/pio

County Offices

Michael Yraceburn, Supervising Deputy District Attorney Criminal Division Kern County District Attorney's Office

1215 Truxtun Avenue, 4th Floor **Bakersfield**, CA 93301

805-868-2321 Fax: 805-868-2135

E-mail: ymichael@co.kern.ca.us

Criselda Gonzalez, Deputy District Attorney Consumer Affairs Unit Solano County Distict Attorney's Office 600 Union Avenue Fairfield, CA 94533

707-421-6859 707-421-6800 Fax: 707-421-7986

Alan Yengoyan, Senior Deputy District Attorney Business Affairs Unit Fresno County District Attorney's Office 1250 Van Ness Avenue, 2nd Floor

Fresno, CA 93721 559-488-3836 559-488-3156 Fax: 559-485-1315

Pastor Herrera, Jr., Director Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs 500 West Temple Street, Room B-96 **Los Angeles**, CA 90012-2706 213-974-1452

213-974-1452 Fax: 213-687-0233

www.consumer-affairs.co.la.co.us

James L. Setulreda, Sr. Deputy District Attorney Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office 651 Pine Street, 12th floor Martinez, CA 94553

925-646-4620 Fax: 925-646-4683

Thomas Quinlan, Deputy District Attorney Consumer Fraud Unit Stanislaus County District

Attorney's Office PO Box 442

Modesto, CA 95353-0442 209-525-5550

Fax: 209-525-5545 www.stanislaus.ca.org

Daryl Roberts, Deputy District Attorney Consumer Affairs Division Napa County District Attorney's Office 931 Parkway Mall PO Box 720 Napa, CA 94559 707-253-4211 707-253-4059 Fax: 707-253-4041

John Wilson, Deputy in Charge Consumer & Environmental Unit San Mateo County District Attorney's Office 400 County Center, 4th Floor Redwood City, CA 94063 650-363-4651

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Fax: 619-531-4481

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408-792-2880 (consumer protection) 408-792-2881 (small claims advisory)

Fax: 408-279-8742 www.santaclara-da.org/ compform.htm

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www.santa-monica.org/atty/consumer-protection/index.htm

Colorado

State Offices

Consumer Protection Division Colorado Attorney General's Office 1525 Sherman Street, 5th Floor

Denver, CO 80203-1760

303-866-5189 303-866-5125

Toll free: 1-800-332-2071 Fax: 303-866-5443

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305-375-3677 (Consumer Hotline) TDD/TTY: 305-375-4177

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www.coj.net/pub/consumer/ consumer.htm

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208-334-2424

Toll free in ID: 1-800-432-3545

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Illinois

State Offices

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Toll free in IL: 1-800-243-0607 (consumer hotline serving southern Illinois)

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Charles Fergus, Bureau Chief Consumer Fraud Bureau 100 West Randolph, 12th Floor

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Toll free in IL: 1-800-386-5438

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Patricia Kelly, Chief Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General Office 100 West Randolph, 12th Floor Chicago, IL 60601

312-814-3000 TDD: 312-793-2852 Fax: 312-814-2593

Governor's Office of Citizens Assistance 222 South College, Room 106 Springfield, IL 62706 217-782-0244 Toll free in IL: 1-800-642-3112

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William Lund, Director Office of Consumer Credit Regulation 35 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0035 207-624-8527 Toll free in ME: 1-800-332-8529 TDD/TTY: 207-624-8563

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www.mainecreditreg.org

207-626-8849

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E-mail: consumer@oag.state.md.us/consumer www.oag.state.md.us

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6601 Ritchie Highway, NE Glen Burnie, MD 21062

410-768-7248 Fax: 410-768-7602

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www.oa6.state.md.us

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E-mail: shannon@co.ho.md.us

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Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 301-952-5232

TDD: 301-925-5167 Fax: 301-952-4244

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Consumer Protection and Antitrust
Division
Office of the Attorney General
200 Portland Street
Boston, MA 02114

617-727-8400 The Consumer Hotline - information and referral to local county and city government consumer offices (listed below) that work in conjunction with the Department of the Attorney General Fax: 617-727-5765

http://www.ago.state.ma.us

Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division Office of the Attorney General -Springfield 436 Dwight Street **Springfield**, MA 01103 413-784-1240

Fax: 413-784-1244

Jennifer Davis Carey, Director Executive Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation One Ashburton Place, Room 1411 **Boston**, MA 02108 617-727-7780 (information and referral only)

TDD/TTY: 617-727-1729 Fax: 617-227-6094

E-mail: consumer@state.ma.us www.state.ma.us/consumer

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Cambridge Consumers' Council 831 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02139 617-349-6150

Fax: 617-349-6148

www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/~Consumer

Fall River Consumer Program One Government Center Fall River, MA 02722 508-324-2672

508-324-2672 Fax: 508-324-2626

Consumer Protection Program Haverhill Community Action, Inc. 25 Locust Street

Haverhill, MA 01830 978-373-1971

Fax: 978-373-8966

Consumer Assistance Council, Inc. 149 Main Street

Hyannis, MA 02601 508-771-0700

Toll free: 1-800-867-0701 Fax: 508-771-3011

www.consumercouncil.com

Consumer Protection Program Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. Consumer Protection Program 350 Essex Street **Lawrence**, MA 08143 978-681-4990 Fax: 978-681-4949 www.glcac.org

Middlesex Community College Law Center

Local Consumer Program 33 Kearney Square, Room 117

Lowell, MA 01852 978-656-3342 Fax: 978-656-3339

E-mail: dunnk@middlesex.cc.ma.us

Consumer Assistance Office -Metro West, Inc. 209 West Central Street Natick, MA 01760

508-651-8812

Fax: Fax: 508-647-0661

Newton-Brookline Consumer Office Newton City Hall 1000 Commonwealth Avenue **Newton**, MA 02465

617-552-7205 Fax: 617-552-7027

Massachusetts PIRG Consumer Action Center 182 Green Street

North Weymouth, MA 02191 781-335-0280

Fax: 781-340-3991

Email: jfoyconsumeraction2@juno.com

Consumer Protection Division North Western District Attorney's Office

Office 238 Main Street **Greenfield**, MA 01301 413-774-5102 Fax: 413-773-3278

Berkshire County Consumer Advocates, Inc. 150 North Street Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-443-9128

Toll free: 1-800-540-9128 Fax: 413-496-9225

Fax: 413-496-9225

Consumer Aid Program

South Shore Community Action Council, Inc. 265 South Meadow Road Plymouth, MA 02360

508-747-7575 x226 Fax: 508-746-5140

E-mail: Imtilley@sscac.org

Consumer Council of Worcester County 484 Main Street, 2nd Floor Worcester, MA 01608-1690 508-754-1176 Fax: 508-754-0203

Email: dreilly@wcac.net

Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing Boston City Hall, Room 817 Boston, MA 02201 617-635-3834 617-635-4165 Fax: 617-635-4174

Mayor's Office of Consumer Information City of Springfield 1243 Main Street Springfield, MA 01103 413-413-787-6437

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517-373-1140 (complaint information) 517-373-1110

Fax: 517-335-1935

Rodger James, Director Bureau of Automotive Regulation Michigan Department of State Lansing, MI 48918-1200 517-373-4777

Toll free in MI: 1-800-292-4204 Fax: 517-373-0964

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TDD: 810-466-4122

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Fax: 810-469-5609 www.libcoop.net/macatt/

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Toll free: 1-800-657-3787

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County Government Center, C-2000

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612-348-4528

TDD/TTY: 612-348-6015

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E-mail: citizeninfo@hennipin.mn.us www.co.hennepin.mn.us/coatty/ hcatty.htm

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www.ago.state.ms.us/consprot.htm

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www.acling.org/conshome.htm

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Jefferson House Lakeland Road

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609-374-6161 609-374-6001

Toll free in NJ: 800-999-9045

Fax: 609-232-0748

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4 Moore Road

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E-mail: seattle.consumeraffairs@ci.seattle.wa.us www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/esd/

consumer

West Virginia

State Offices

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Charleston, WV 25326-1789 304-558-8986

Toll free in WV: 1-800-368-8808

Fax: 304-558-0184

E-mail: consumer@wvnet.edu www.state.wv.us/wrag/cons/

Karl Angell, Jr., Director Division of Weights and Measures Section

570 MacCorkle Avenue St. Albans, WV 25177 304-722-0602

Fax: 304-722-0605

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Judy Cardin, Regional Supervisor Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection 200 North Jefferson Street Suite 146-A

Green Bay, WI 54301 920-448-5111

920-448-5114

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Fax: 920-448-5118

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Fax: 608-224-4939

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Fax: 307-777-7956

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Virgin Islands Offices

Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs Golden Rock Shopping Center Christiansted St. Croix, USVI 00820

340-773-2226 Fax: 340-778-8250

Andrew Rutnik, Commissioner Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs Property and Procurement Building No. 1 Sub Base, Room 205 St. Thomas, USVI 00802

340-774-3130 Fax: 340-776-8303

Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs Property Procurement Building #1 Sub Base, Room 205 **St. Thomas**, USVI 00802 340-693-8036

Fax: 340-776-6992

The officials listed below regulate and supervise state-chartered banks. Many of them handle or refer problems and complaints about other types of financial institutions as well. Some also answer general questions about banking and consumer credit. If you are dealing with a federally chartered bank, check the listing of "Selected Federal Agencies." Also see the information under Money and Credit on page 14.

Alabama

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TDD: 907-465-5437 Fax: 907-465-2549

E-mail: dbsc@dced.state.ak.us www.dced.state.ak.us

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Fax: 602-381-1225 www.azbanking.com

Arkansas

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501-324-9019 Fax: 501-324-9028

E-mail: asbdbanking.state.ar.us

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California

Jan Lvnn Owen Acting Commissioner Department of Financial Institutions State of California 111 Pine Street, Suite 1100 San Francisco, CA 94111-5613 415-263-8507 Toll free in CA: 1-800-622-0620 (for

consumer complaints against CA state-licensed banks, the "800" number reaches the Consumer Services Office, located in Sacramento, CA.

Fax: 415-989-5310 E-mail: jowen@dfi.ca.gov www.dfi.ca.gov

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Richard Fulkerson State Bank Commissioner Department of Regulatory Agencies Division of Banking 1560 Broadway, Suite 1175 **Denver**, CO 80202 303-894-7575 Fax: 303-894-7570

E-mail: banking@dora.state.co.us www.dora.state.co.us/banking/

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www.state.ct.us/dob

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Robert A. Glen State Bank Commissioner

555 East Lockerman Street, Suite 210 **Dover**, DE 19901

302-739-4235 Fax: 302-739-3609 www.state.de.us/bank

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202-727-1563 Fax: 202-727-1588 www.obfi.dcgov.org/

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Tallahassee, FL 32399-0350

850-410-9370

850-410-9275 (investigations) Toll free in FL: 1-800-848-3792

Fax: 850-410-9026

E-mail: dbf@mail.dbf.state.fl.us

www.dbf.state.fl.us

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Toll free in Kauai: 1-800-274-3141

Toll free in Maui: 1-800-984-2400 Toll free in Hawaii: 1-800-974-4000

808-586-2820 Fax: 808-586-2818

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Fax: 208-332-8098

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Fax: 410-333-0475

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775-687-4259

Toll free in NV: 1-800-521-0019

Fax: 775-687-6909

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state.nv.us

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State of New Hampshire Banking Department Consumer Credit 56 Old Suncook Road Concord, NH 03301 603-271-3561

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www.state.nh.us/banking

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Trenton, NJ 08625 609-292-3420 (banking) Fax: 609-984-5273

www.naic.org/nj/njhome/pg.html

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Toll free in NY: 1-800-522-3330 (consumer services hotline) Toll free in NY: 1-800-832-1838 (small

business information) Fax: 212-618-6599 www.banking.state.ny.us

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Financial Institutions Division 77 South High Street, 21st Floor Columbus, OH 43266-0121 614-728-8400

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Toll free in PA: 1-800-PA-BANKS

TDD toll free: 1-800-679-5070 Fax: 717-787-8773 www.banking.state.pa.us

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Fax: 512-475-1313 www.banking.state.tx.us

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802-828-4872

802-828-3307 (banking) Toll free: 1-800-964-1764 (all insur-

ance except health)

Toll free: 1-800-631-7788 (Health

Care)

Fax: 802-828-3306

E-mail: rdaily@bishca.state.vt.us

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E-mail: banking@state.wy.us audit.state.wy.us/banking/

default.html

Each state has its own laws and regulations for all types of insurance, including car, homeowner and health insurance. The officials listed below enforce these laws. Many of these offices can provide information to help you make informed insurance buying decisions. Your local library also has information that can help you compare insurance companies before making a purchase. If you have a question or complaint about your insurance company's policies, contact the company before you contact the state insurance regulator.

Alabama

David Parsons, Acting Commissioner Alabama Department of Insurance 201 Monroe Street, Suite 1700

PO Box 303351 Montgomery, AL 36104

334-269-3550 Fax: 334-241-4192 E-mail:

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www.state.az.us/id

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501-371-2640

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Fax: 501-371-2749

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insurance.consumers@mail.state.ar.us www.state.ar.us/insurance

California

Charles Quackenbush, Insurance Commissioner Department of Insurance Executive Office 300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1500 Sacramento, CA 95814 916-492-3500 415-538-4010 San Francisco 213-897-8921 Los Angeles Toll free in CA: 1-800-927-4357 www.insurance.ca.gov

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E-mail: enforcement@state.mn.us www.commerce.state.mn.us

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State Weights and Measures offices enforce laws and regulations about the labeling, weight, measure or count of such packaged items as food and household products. These offices also check the accuracy of weighing and measuring devices, for example, supermarket scales, gasoline pumps, taxicab meters and rental car odometers. Some city and county offices have weights and measures functions in addition to the state offices listed below. Contact the state office or check your local telephone directory under the governmental listings for your local weights and measures office. The office might be listed under either the city or county bureau of standards, agriculture or consumer protection.

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E-mail: jrogers@dacs.state.va.us www.state.va.us/vdacs/vdacs/htm

Washington

Jerry Buendel, Program Manager Weights and Measures Department of Agriculture P.O. Box 42560 Olympia, WA 98504-2560

360-902-1857

Fax: 360-902-2086

E-mail: jbuendel@agr.wa.gov

www.wa.gov

West Virginia

Karl Angell, Jr., Director Weights and Measures Section Division of Labor 570 West MacCorkle Avenue St. Alban, WV 25177

304-722-0602 Fax: 304-722-0605

E-mail: angelk@mail.wvnet.edu

Wyoming

Jim Bigelow Technical Services Manager Wyoming Department of Agriculture Consumer/Compliance 2219 Cary Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

307-777-6590 Fax: 307-777-6593

www.wyagric.state.wy.us

Many federal agencies have enforcement and/or complainthandling duties for products and services used by the general public. Others act for the benefit of the public, but do not resolve individual consumer problems.

Agencies also have fact sheets, booklets and other information which might be helpful in making purchase decisions and dealing with consumer problems. If you wish to access

Federal agencies electronically, the websites and/or e-mail addresses are listed for a number of them. The number for text telephones (TDD/ TTY) are in bold type.

If you need help in deciding whom to contact with your consumer problem, check the index at the end of this book or call the Federal Information Center (FIC) toll free on 1-800-688-9889. The Federal agencies listed below respond to consumer complaints and inquiries.

Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (AC-CESS Board)

1331 F Street, NW, Suite

Washington, DC 20004-1111

202-272-5434

Toll free: 1-800-872-2253 TDD: 202-272-5449; TDD/ TTY toll free: 1-800-993-

2822

Fax: 202-272-5447 E-mail: info@access-

board.gov

www.access-board.gov

CDC National STD and

Toll free: 1-800-342-AIDS

TDD toll free: 1-800-243-

7889 (for Deaf and hard of

AIDS Hotline

(2437) (24 hrs.)

hearing callers)

www.ashastd.org

Control

Centers for Disease

Atlanta, GA area: 404-639-

Toll free: 1-800-311-3435

www.cdc.gov Spanish website: www.cdc.gov/spanish

Commodity **Futures Trading** Commission (CFTC)

Public Affairs Lafayette Center 1155 21st Street, NW Ste 9122

Washington, DC 20581

202-418-5088 Fax: 202-418-5525

E-mail: dholden@cftc.gov

www.cftc.gov

Centers for Disease Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

Washington, DC 20207 Toll free: 1-800-638-CPSC (2772) (Product Safety Hotline)

TDD toll free: 1-800-638-

Fax: on demand: 301-504-

E-mail: info@cpsc.gov www.cpsc.gov

Call the Product Safety Hotline to report a hazardous product or product-related injury

weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Recorded messages on safety recommendations and product recalls are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Public Affairs Department of Agriculture (USDA)

4700 River Road, Unit 51 Riverdale, MD 20737 301-734-7799

Fax: 301-734-5221 www.aphis.usda.gov

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

Department of Agriculture (USDA) 1120 20th Street, NW, Suite 200, North Lobby Washington, DC 20036-

202-418-2312 202-606-8000 (publication order line)

Fax: 202-208-2321 E-mail: cnppweb@www.usda.gov www.usda.gov.cnpp

Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service

Department of Agriculture 1400 Independence

Avenue, SW Washington, DC 202502215 202-720-7947

Fax: 202-690-2674

E-mail:

csrees@reeusda.gov www.reeusda.gov

Or consult county government listings in your local telephone directory for the number of your local Cooperative Extension Service office.

Meat and Poultry Hotline

Department of Agriculture (USDA) 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 292 Washington, DC 20250 Washington D.C. area: (202) 720-3333 Toll free: 1-800-535-4555 TDD/TTY 1-800-256-7072

Office of Communications

www.fsis.usda.gov

Department of Agriculture (USDA) 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 506-A Washington, DC 20250 202-720-2791

General Inquiries

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1600 Clifton Road NW Atlanta, GA 30333



Department of Commerce

Bureau of the Census

Department of Commerce Customer Services **Washington**, DC 20233

301-457-4100 Fax: 301-457-4714 E-mail:

webmaster@census.gov www.census.gov

National Institute of Standards

Metric Program
Department of Commerce
100 Bureau Drive, Stop

Gaithersburg, MD 208992000 301-975-3690

Fax: 301-948-1416 E-mail:

metric_prg.@nist.gov www.nist.gov/metric

The metric program educates the public and offers free resources to facilitate greater awareness and understanding of the metric system of measurement.

Office of Weights and Measures

National Institute of Standards and Technology Department of Commerce Room 223, Building 820 **Gaithersburg**, MD 20899 301-975-4004

Fax: 301-926-0647 E-mail: owm@nist.gov www.nist.gov/owm

The Office of Weights and Measures of the National Institute of Standards and Technology promotes uniformity in U.S. weights and measures laws, regulations, and standards to achieve equity between buyers and sellers in the marketplace. OWM sponsors the National Conference on Weights and Measures and provides technical assistance to the National Type Evaluation Program.

Seafood Inspection Program

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Department of Commerce 1315 East-West Highway, F/SI

Room 10842

Silver Spring, MD 20910 301-713-2355

Toll free: 1-800-422-2750 Fax: 301-713-1081 www.seafood.nmfs.gov

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Department of Commerce Patents: Commissioner for Patents (20231) Trademarks: 2900 Crystal Drive (22202)

Arlington, VA 22202 703-305-4357

Toll free: 1-800-786-9199 TDD/TTY: 703-305-7785

Fax: 703-308-5258 www.uspto.gov/

Department of Defense

See page 134 for Family and Community Service Centers.

National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Department of Defense 1555 Wilson Blvd., Suite

Arlington, VA 22209-2405 703-696-1391

Toll free outside DC: 1-800-336-4590

Fax: 703-696-1411 www.esgr.org

Provides assistance with employer/employee problems for members of the Guard and Reserve and their employers.

Department of Education

Toll-Free Information Phone Numbers

1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) TTY/TDD: 1-800-437-0833 email: USA_LEARN@ed.gov Use this phone number to obtain information on the Department of Education's programs and major initiatives; publications, videos, and other materials; directory assistance;

and referrals to specialists

or other experts.

1-800-424-1616 TTY/TTD: 202-219-1699 email: Library@inet.ed.gov Web site: www.ed.gov/

Use this phone number to reach the National Library of Education to obtain information about education statistics, research, and publications published by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

1-800-LET-ERIC
Use this phone number to find out about the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) and the world's largest database of educational materials. Call to learn about new materials or receive referrals to other agen-

EDInfo Electronic Newsletter

E-mail:

peter_kickbush@ed.gov www.ed.gov/MailingLists/ EDInfo/ei-annou.html Join the EDInfo mailing list by:

1. Addressing an email message to listproc@inet.ed.gov 2. Writing this (and nothing else) in the message: subscribe EDInfo yourfirstname yourlastname (for example "subscribe EDInfo John Doe"). If you have a signature block please turn it off.

National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education (NCBE)

Department of Education The George Washington University 1118 22nd Street, NW Washington, DC 20037 202-467-0867 Toll free outside DC: 1-800-321-NCBE (6223) Fax: 1-800-531-9347 or 202-467-4283 E-mail:

askncbe@ncbe.gwu.edu www.ncbe.gwu.edu

NCBE is funded by the Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs (OBEMLA) to collect, analyze, synthesize and disseminate information related to the education of bilingually and culturally diverse students in the U.S.

Office of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs

Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave SW Room 5E301

Washington, DC 20202 202-401-0404 Fax: 202-401-8607

Office of Public Affairs

Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave SW Room 7E231 Washington, DC 20202

202-401-1576 Fax: 202-401-3130

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

Department of Education 330 C Street, SW, Room 3132

Washington, DC 20202-2524 202-205-8241 TDD: 202-205-4208 www.ed.gov/offices/ OSERS

Publications Center (EDPUBS)

Department of Education PO Box 1398 **Jessup**, MD 20794-1398 Toll free: 1-877-4ED-PUBS (1-877-433-7827) TTY/TDD: 1-877-576-7734

Fax: 301-470-1244



E-mail: edpubs@inet.ed.gov www.ed.gov/pubs/ edpubs.html

Ed Pubs is the Education Publications Center for the US Department of Education. You can contact ED Pubs to find out what's available on topics of interest to you and to order free copies of publications, videotapes, CD-ROMS, posters, bookmarks, and other products. Many Department publications can be acquired instantly in electronic form via the Internet. You can order copies of publications using one of the ways listed above.

Federal Student Aid Information Center

Department of Education Toll free: 1-800-4FED-AID (433-3243) Use this phone number to receive information about how to apply for federal student aid. TTY/TDD: 1-800-730-8913 Fax: 202-708-7970

E-mail: OPE_SFA@ed.gov www.ed.gov/finaid.html If the student has already filed a free Application for Federal Student Aid, he or

she can check the status of the application by calling (319) 337-5665. For Direct Loan toll-free services, including information about repayment options call:

Direct Loan Origination Center

Applicant Services: 1-800-557-7394 Consolidation: 1-800-557-7392 TDD: 1-800-555-7395

School Relations: 1-800-848-0978 Additional web sites for students:

www.ed.gov/studentaid for financial professionals: iafap.ed.gov

for Direct Loans:
www.ed.gov/DirectLoan
for information about our
organization: www.ed.gov/
offices/OSFAP

Department of Energy

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse Department of Energy P.O. Box 3048 Merrifield, VA 22116 Toll free: 1-800-DOE-3732 TDD toll free: 1-800-273-

www.eren.doe.gov

For information about conservation and renewable energy

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Department of Energy Washington, DC 202-586-4074 Fax: 202-586-1233 For inquiries about weatherization assistance

Office of Consumer Information

Department of Energy **Washington**, DC 20585 202-586-1908 Fax: 202-586-8006

Office of State and Community Programs Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585 202-586-1510

Fax: 202-586-5145

Office of Scientific and Technical Information

Department of Energy P.O. Box 62 Oak Ridge, TN 37832 865-576-1188 865-576-8401 (document requests) Fax: 865-576-2865 www.osti.gov

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

www.dhhs.gov

Administration on Aging

Department of Health and Human Services Wilbur J. Cohen Building SW
Washington DC 20201
Eldercare Locator toll free:
1-800-677-1116 (M-F, (9 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST)
The Eldercare Locator is run by the DHHS and two associations for the aged.
Set up to locate community assistance for senior citizens, its trained volunteers can provide you with the names and phone

330 Independence Ave.,

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information

numbers of local organiza-

tions that can help you

and the person you are

caring for.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 330 C Street SW 703-385-7565 (8:30 a.m. -5:30 p.m., M-F) Toll free outside DC: 1-800-394-3366 (8:30 a.m. -5:30 p.m., M-F) E-mail: nccanch@calib.com www.calib.com/nccanch

Food and Drug Administration

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1675

Rockville, MD 20857 Toll free: 1-888-463-6332 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m. ET)

Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Hotline

Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
202-205-4314 (10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET)
Toll free: 1-888SAFEFOOD (1-888-723-3366) [10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.]
www.fda.gov

Center for Beneficiary Services

Health Care Financing Administration Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Baltimore, MD 21244-1850
Toll free: 1-800-MEDICARE
TDD: 1-877-486-2048
www.medicare.gov
Call 1-800-MEDICARE to
get help with your questions about Medicare. You
can order Medicare

7500 Security Boulevard

Call 1-800-MEDICARE to get help with your guestions about Medicare. You can order Medicare publications (english, spanish, audi-tape, braille), get detailed information about the Medicare managed care plans in your area, order Medicarehealth plan quality and customer satisfaction information, and listed to recorded questions and answers on topics such as Medicare health plan choices and health plan quality information. The Health Care Financing Administration is the federal agency within the Department of Health and Human Services that runs the Medicare, Medicaid, Clinical Laboratories (under the CLIA program), and Children's Health Insurance programs, and works to make sure that the beneficiaries in these programs are able to get high quality health care.

Office of the Inspector General - Fraud Hotline

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) PO Box 23489

Washington, DC 20026 Toll free: 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477)

TTY toll free: 1-800-377-4950

Fax: 1-800-223-8164 (cover sheet required/10 page max.)

E-mail: htips@os.dhhs.gov

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Toll free: 1-800-4-CANCER (422-6237)

National Health Information Center

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) P.O. Box 1133

Washington, DC 20013-1133

301-565-4167 (DC metro area)

Toll free: 1-800-336-4797 Fax: 301-984-4256

E-mail:

nhicinfo@health.org nhic-nt.health.org



🙀 National Institute of Mental Health

National Institutes of Health NIMH Public Inquiries 6001 Executive Boulevard Rm. 8184, MSC 9663 Bethesda, MD 20892-9663 301-443-4513

TTY: 301-443-8431 Fax: 301-443-4279 Fax on demand: 301-443-5158 (Mental Health Fax 4U)

E-mail: nimhinfo@nih.gov www.nimh.nih.gov

Contact NIMH for information on the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders, clinical trials, and research. A publications list is available upon request and on the NIMH website. Some publications are available in Spanish.

National Runaway Switchboard

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 308 N. Lincoln Ave. Chicago, IL 60657 773-880-9860

Toll free: 1-800-621-4000 1-800-621-0394

Fax: 773-929-5150

E-mail:

info@nrscrisisline.org www.nrscrisisline.org

Office of Child Support Enforcement

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 370 L'Enfant Plaza, SW 4th Floor East

Washington, DC 10447 202-401-9373

Fax: 202-205-5927 www.acf.dhhs.gov/ programs/cse

Office of Civil Rights

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 200 Independence Ave., SW. Room 515F Washington, DC 20201

202-619-0403 Fax: 202-619-3437 Toll free: 1-800-368-1019

E-mail:

execsec@os.dhhs.gov www.hhs.gov

President's Council on Physical Fitness and **Sports**

HHH Building, Room 738H 200 Independence Ave.,

Washington, DC 20201 202-690-9000 Fax: 202-690-5211 www.fitness.gov

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Home Improvement **Branch**

Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street, SW Room 9272

Washington, DC 20410 202-708-6396 Fax: 202-401-8951

E-mail:

John_W._Struchen@hud.gov www.hud.gov/ homeimpr.html

Home Mortgage **Insurance Division**

Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street, SW Room 9272

Washington, DC 20410 202-708-2121

Inspector General's Fraud Hotline

Department of Housing and Urban Development 202-708-4200 Toll free outside DC: 1-800-347-3735 TDD toll free: 1-800-304-9597 E-mail: OIG_HOTLINE@HUD.gov

Manufactured Housing & Standards Division

Office of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street, SW Room 9156

Washington, DC 20410 202-708-6409 Toll free: 1-800-927-2891 Fax: 202-708-4213 E-mail: mhs@hud.gov The Manufactured Housing Program is a consumer protection program that regulates the construction of certain factory-built housing units called "manufactured homes," formerly known as "mobile homes." HUD works with 36 states to

Office of Affordable Housing Programs

respond to consumer

complaints.

Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street, SW Room 7164

Washington, DC 20410 202-708-2685

Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street, SW Room 5100

Washington, DC 20410 202-708-4252

Toll free: 1-800-669-9777 (hotline complaints)

Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act Division

Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street, SW Room 9146

Washington, DC 20410 202-708-0502

Toll free: 1-800-217-6970 (Home Buyer Assistance) E-mail: hsg-

respa@hud.gov

www.hud.gov/fha/sfh/res/ respa_hm.html

Handles complaints and provides information regarding real estate loan transactions and borrower

rights under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA).

Department of **Justice**

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information Line

Civil Rights Department of Justice PO Box 66738

Washington, DC 20035-

Toll free: 1-800-514-0301 TTY: 1-800-514-0383

www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/ adahom1.htm

Antitrust Division

Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Room 3109 Washington, DC 20530 202-514-2401

Fax: 202-616-2645 E-mail:

antitrust@usdoj.gov www.usdoj.gov/atr

Civil Rights Division

Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20530 202-514-2151 Fax: 202-514-0293

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Department of Justice Washington, DC 20537 202-307-1000

www.usdoj.gov/dea

www.usdoj.gov/crt

Division of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)

Department of Justice 425 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20536 202-514-2648 Toll free: 1-800-375-5283 (National Customer Service Center) TDD: 1-800-767-1833

Fax: 202-514-1776 www.ins.usdoj.gov

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Department of Justice 935 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20535



202-324-3000 Fax: 202-324-4705 www.fbi.gov

Department of Labor

Employment Standards Administration

Department of Labor Room S-1032 200 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20210 202-693-0200 202-693-0023 (public affairs office)

www.dol.gov/dol/esa/ welcome.html

Employment and Training Administration

Office of Public Affairs
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue,
NW
Room S4206

Washington, DC 20210 202-219-6871 Fax: 202-273-4793

www.doleta.gov

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Department of Labor Ballston Towers #3, 4015 Wilson Blvd. **Arlington**, VA 22203 703-235-1452

Toll free: 1-800-746-1554 (anonymous reporting of hazardous working conditions in mine area) www.msha.gov

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Office of Information and Consumer Affairs Department of Labor 200 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20210 202-693-1999 Fax: 202-693-1634 www.osha.gov

Office of Public Affairs

Department of Labor 200 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20210

202-693-4650 (general inquiries) www.dol.gov

Office of Program Services

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration Department of Labor **Washington**, DC 20210 202-219-8776

Toll free: 1-800-998-7542 www.dol.gov/dol/pwba Provides information and answers questions on private sector, employer-sponsored pension benefit and health benefit plans.

Office of the Assistant Secretary

Veteran's Employment and Training Service Department of Labor 200 Constitution Avenue, NW Room S1316 Washington, DC 20210 202-693-4700 Fax: 202-693-4755 E-mail: berggordon@dol.gov www.dol.gov/dol/vets

Women's Bureau

Department of Labor 200 Constitution Ave., NW Washington, DC 20210 202-219-6652 Toll free: 1-800-827-5335 (24 hours) Fax: 202-219-5529

www.dol.gov/dol/wb/

The Women's Bureau covers work issues such as sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination, and family and medical leave, and dependent care (child and/or elder care) policies.

Department of State

Overseas Citizens Services

Department of State Washington, DC 20520 202-647-5225 (emergencies and non-emergencies, Mon.-Fri., 8:15 a.m.-10 p.m.)

202-647-4000 (after hours emergencies, Sundays, holidays and ask for duty officer)

Fax: Fax: 202-647-2867 or 202-647-2867

travel.state.gov

For help with emergencies and non-emergencies affecting private Americans abroad.

National Passport Information Center

For information on U.S. passports, including the status of pending applications, as well as the locations of the over 4,500 passport acceptance facilities go to www.travel.state.gov or call 1-900-225-5674.

These calls are \$1.05 a minute to speak with a Customer Service Representative and \$.35 per minute for automated service

Toll free: 1-888-362-8668 (for credit card users)
These calls require credit card payment for a flat fee of \$4.95 per call.

TDD: 1-900-225-7778, TDD Toll free: 1-888-498-3648

Visa Services

Department of State
Washington, DC 20520
202-663-1225 (8:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m., EST M-F)
Emergency after hours:
202-647-1512
Fax: 202-663-3899
E-mail: usvisa@state.gov
travel.state.gov/
visa_services.html
For information on U.S.
visas for foreigners.

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240 202-208-3711 www.doi.gov/bureauindian-affairs.html

Bureau of Land Management

Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240 202-452-5125 Fax: 202-452-5124 www.blm.gov

Fish and Wildlife Service

Department of the Interior 18th and C Streets, NW Washington, DC 20240 202-208-4131 www.fws.gov

Geological Survey

Department of the Interior 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive **Reston**, VA 20192 703-648-4000 www.usgs.gov

National Park Service

Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, NW **Washington**, DC 20240 202-208-4747 (public affairs office)

Fax: 202-219-0190 www.nps.gov

Department of the Treasury

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

Department of the Treasury 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20226 202-927-7777 Fax: 202-927-7862 www.atf.treas.gov/

Office of External Relations

Bureau of Engraving and Printing Department of the Treasury 14th and C Streets, SW, Room 533 M Washington, DC 20228 202-874-3019 Fax: 202-874-3177 www.bep.treas.gov/

Office of the Commissioner

Bureau of the Public Debt Department of the Treasury

999 E Street, NW, Room

Washington, DC 20239 202-691-3502 www.publicdebt.treas.gov

Customer Assistance Group

Comptroller of the Currency Department of the Treasury 1301 McKinney St, Suite 3710

Houston, TX 77010 Toll free: 1-800-613-6743 www.occ.treas.gov

United States Customs Service

Department of the Treasury 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue,

Washington, DC 20229 202-354-1000 202-927-1350 (library and information center) Fax: 202-927-1380 www.customs.gov/

Office of Legislative and Public Affairs

Financial Management Service Department of the Treasury Liberty Center 401, 14th Street, SW Room 555 Washington, DC 20227

202-874-6740 Fax: 202-874-7016 www.fms.treas.gov

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Department of the Treasury Toll free: 1-800-829-1040 (information and problem resolution) www.irs.gov

Office of Thrift Supervision

Compliance Policy Department of the Treasury 1700 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20552 Toll free: 1-800-842-6929 www.ots.treas.gov The Office of Thrift Supervision handles complaints about Federal savings and loans and Federal savings banks.

Savings Bonds Marketing Office

Department of the Treasury 999 E Street NW, Ste. 313 **Washington**, DC 20226 202-622-2000 Toll free: 1-800-4US-BOND (toll free recording) www.savingsbonds.gov

Customer Service Center

United States Mint Department of the Treasury 10003 Derekwood Lane Lanham, MD 20706 202-283-2646 www.usmint.gov/

Department of Transportation (DOT)

United States Coast Guard

Navigation Center Department of Transportation (DOT) 7323 Telegraph Road **Alexandria**, VA 22315-3998 703-313-5900

Toll free: 1-800-368-5647 (Customer Information

ine)

www.navcen.uscg.mil

National Response Center

United States Coast Guard Department of Transportation (DOT) 2100 Second Street, SW, Room 2611 Washington, DC 20593 Toll free: 1-800-424-8802 Fax: 202-267-2165 www.nrc.uscg.mil NRC must be called immediately with there is environmental release of

hazardous chemicals,

biological, radiological or

etiological agencts or oil

pollution; NRC provides

WMD hotline.

Federal Aviation Administration (ASY-300)

Department of Transportation (DOT)
Washington, DC 20591
Toll free: 1-800-255-1111

Toll free: 1-800-255-1111 (safety hotline)
Air Safety.

Federal Aviation Administration

Department of Transportation (DOT) 800 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20591 202-366-4000 Toll free: 1-800-FAA-SURE (322-7873) (consumer hotline, 8 am-4 pm, M-F)

Aviation Consumer Protection Division

www.faa.gov

plaints.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Washington, DC 20590
202-366-2220
www.dot.gov/airconsumer
Airline Service Com-

Office of Safety (RRS)

Federal Railroad Administration
Department of Transportation (DOT)

Office address: 1120 Vermont Ave NW

Washington, DC 20005 202-493-6300

Fax: 202-493-6309 Railway Safety Mailing Address:

Federal Railroad Administration

400 Seventh Street, SW Mail Stop 25 Washington DC 20590

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Department of Transportation (DOT) 400 7th Street, SW, Room 2318

Washington, DC 20590 Toll free Safety Hotline: 1-888-DASH 2 DOT (1-888-327-4236)

www.nhtsa.dot.gov Auto Safety Hotline and Fax-on-Demand Service. NHTSA wants to hear from consumers regarding potential defects in their cars. NHTSA's hotline has information on safety recalls; crash test ratings; child safety seats; bicycles; air bags; and impaired driving prevention.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Toll free: 1-800-827-1000 For information about VA medical care or benefits, write, call or visit your nearest VA facility.

Consumer Affairs Service (075B)

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20420 202-273-5760 For consumer information or general assistance.

National Cemetery System (402B2)

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20420 202-273-5221 Fax: 202-273-6698 For information about burials, headstones or markers, State cemetery grants program, and presidential memorial certificates.

Veterans Benefits Administration (20S5)

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20420 202-273-7004 Toll free: 1-800-827-1000 Fax: 202-275-5947 www.va.gov For information about benefits.

Veterans Health Administration (10C3)

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)



810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20420 202-273-8303 Fax: 202-273-9609 For information about medical care.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Energy Star® Program

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NWRoom 6202J Washington, DC 20460 Toll free: 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937) E-mail: info@energystar.gov www.energystar.gov The ENERGY STAR® label is awarded to products for the home and office that are highly energy efficient. Buying appliances, consumer electronics, lighting, heating and cooling equipment and other products that carry this label helps protect the environment and saves money as well.

Indoor Environments Division

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 401 M Street Washington, DC 20460 202-233-9421 Toll free: 1-800-438-4318 Fax: 202-233-9652 E-mail: IAQINFO@aol.com www.epa.gov/iaq/ iagxline.html Informs consumers, government organizations and industry about indoor air quality awareness and risk reduction.

Inspector General's Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline Environmental Protect

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 401 M Street, SW, Mail Code 2441 202-260-4977 Fax: 202-260-6976 www.epa.gov/

EPA Headquarters Information Resources Center

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office location: 401 M Street, SW, Room M2904 Washington, DC 20460 202-260-5922 (general information) Fax: 202-260-5153 E-mail: publicaccess@epamail.epa.gov Mailing address: 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Mailcode 3201 Washington DC 20460 This is the EPA headquarters library, which provides assistance in locating EPA and environmental information, including general interest, non-technical publications on a variety of environmental topics.

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Oregon State University, 333 Weniger Hall Corvalis, OR 97331-6502 Toll free: 1-800-858-7378 (United States, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands) Fax: 541-737-0761 E-mail: nptn@ace.orst.edu http://ace.orst.edu/info/np A service that provides objective, science-based information about a wide variety of pesticiderelated subjects, including: pesticide products, recognition and management of pesticide poisonings, toxicology, environmental chemistry.

Public Liaison Division Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 401 M Street, SW Washington, DC 20460 202-260-4454 Fax: 202-260-0130 or 202-

401-8150

www.epa.gov

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) RCRA, Superfund and EPCRA Hotline Washington, DC 20460 703-412-9810 (DC metro area) Toll free outside DC: 1-800-424-9346 TDD toll free: 1-800-553-7672 Fax: 703-412-3333 E-mail: epahotline@bah.com www.epa.gov/epaoswer/

Safe Drinking Water Hotline

Environmental Protection

hotline

Agency (EPA)
401 M Street, SW
MC 4604
Washington, DC 20460
Toll free: 1-800-426-4791
Fax: 703-285-1101
E-mail: hotlinesdwa@epamail.epa.gov
www.epa.gov/safewater
Answers questions on the
Safe Drinking Water Act,
rules and regulations, and
consumer questions.

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

Assistance Information Service (TAIS) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW 74080

Washington, DC 20460 202-554-1404 Fax: 202-554-5603 E-mail: tscahotline@email.epa.gov Web site: www.epa.gov/oppt The TAIS responds to requests regarding the regulations of the Toxic Substance Control Act of 1976 via phone, fax, email, and mail. The hotline is staffed 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST; and also includes a clearing house of TSCA publications.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs

Equal Employment
Opportunity Commission
1801 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20507
202-663-4900
Toll free outside DC area:
1-800-669-4000 (file-a-charge information)
TDD toll free outside DC
area: 1-800-669-3302 (file-a-charge information and publications)

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Consumer Information Bureau

Federal Communications
Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554
202-632-7553
Toll free: 1-888-CALL-FCC
(1-888-225-5322)
Toll free TTY: 1-888-TELL-FCC
(1-888-835-5322)
E-mail: fccinfo@fcc.gov
www.fcc.gov
Public Inquiries, informal
complaints, telephone and
wireless

Cable Services Bureau

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554 Toll free: 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) Toll free: 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) E-mail: fccinfo@fcc.gov www.fcc.gov

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Consumer Affairs Section

Compliance and Consumer Affairs Division Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)



550 17th St., NW Washington, DC 20429 202-942-3100

Toll free: 1-800-934-FDIC TDD: 1-202-942-3147 Fax: 202-942-3098 www.fdic.gov/consumers/ questions/customer/ index.html

FDIC handles questions about deposit insurance coverage and complaints about FDIC-insured state banks which are not members of the Federal Reserve System.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Federal Insurance Administration

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 500 C Street, SW Washington, DC 20472 202-646-2780 Toll free: 1-800-638-6620 Fax: 1-800-742-3148 www.fema.gov

U.S. Fire Administration

National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 16825 South Seton Avenue Emmitsburg, MD 21727 301-447-1080 (National Fire Administration) 202-646-1286 (Emergency Management Institute) www.usfa.fema.gov

Office of Emergency Information and Media **Affairs**

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 202-616-1086 Fax: 202-646-4086 E-mail: eipa@fema.gov (general inquiries) www.fema.gov/about/ eima.htm

Office of Inspector General

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Toll free: 1-800-323-8603 (Government Waste Hotline)

www.fema.gov/IG

Response and Recovery Directorate

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 500 C Street, SW, Room

Washington, DC 20472 202-646-3454 TDD toll free: 1-800-462-

7585

www.fema.gov/r-n-r Disaster victims living in presidentially-declared major disaster area can find out if they are eligible to apply for disaster assistance by calling: Toll free: 1-800-462-9029

Federal Maritime Commission

Office of Informal Inquiries and Complaints 800 North Capitol Street, NW

Washington, DC 20573 202-523-5807 Fax: 202-523-0014 E-mail: josephf@fmc.gov

www.fmc.gov Regulatory agency maintaining statutory authority over ocean carriers and certain other General Services entities, operating in the waterborne foreign commerce of the United States. Our assistance is available to consumers engaged in disputes with transporting carriers as well as with cruise operators.

Federal Reserve **System**

Division of Consumer and Community Affairs Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System Federal Reserve System 20th & C Street, NW Washington, DC 20551 202-452-3693 (complaints only)

202-452-3204 (public affairs) TDD: 202-452-3544 www.federalreserve.gov The Board of Governors handles consumer complaints about statechartered banks and trust companies which are members of the Federal Reserve System.

→ Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Consumer Response Center

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20580 Toll free: 1-877-FTC-HELP (877 - 382 - 4357)TDD/TTY: 202-326-2502 www.ftc.gov and www.consumer.gov. Consumer.gov offers onestop access to consumer information from the federal government. The site is arranged topically and the information packaged intuitively. Each of the ten subject areas has subcategories that allow visitors to locate and link to the information quickly and easily.

Administration

Business Service Centers

Toll free: 1-888-633-4472 www.gsa.gov These centers provide practical information on contracting procedures for small businesses wishing to do business with GSA. Call 1-888-633-4472 for information on how to reach the center serving your area or access the GSA web site at www.gsa.gov/oed.

Federal Consumer **Information Center** (FCIC) **Pueblo**, CO 81009

719-948-4000 Toll free: 1-888-8PUEBLO (catalog orders only) www.pueblo.gsa.gov (access to the Catalog and all FCIC publications) CIC publishes the free Consumer Information Catalog, which lists more than 200 free and low-cost Federal booklets on a wide variety of consumer topics, and maintains a one-stop federal consumer information web site at www.pueblo.gsa.gov. For

Federal Information Center

more information, see

page 1.

Toll free: 1-800-688-9889 TDD/TTY: 1-800-326-2996

Federal Information Relay Service (see page

Surplus Federal Property Sales

GSA disposes of both personal property and real estate. GSA's Public **Buildings Service sells** most surplus government real estate. For information, you may call 1-800-472-1313 or access the GSA web site at: www.gsa.gov/pbs/pr/ prhome.htm. GSA's Federal Supply Service manages the disposition of surplus Federal personal property. Such property may be (1) donated to public agencies or qualified nonprofit organizations, or (2) sold to the general public. For more information, you may access the GSA/FSS web site at www.fss.gsa.gov.

Government Printing Office (GPO) Government Publications

Government Printing Office P.O. Box 371954 Pittsburgh, PA 15250



202-512-1800 Fax: 202-512-2250 E-mail: orders@gpo.gov www.access.gpo.gov GPO sells many Government publications and subscriptions of interest to consumers. GPO accepts orders by mail, telephone, fax, and e-mail, and operates 24 bookstores nationwide. For a free catalog of new and popular titles, which includes a list of the Government bookstores. write to: Free Catalog, P.O. Box 37000, Washington, DC 20013. To order publications and subscriptions, write to: Gov't Publications address in PA listed above.

National Archives and Records Administration

8th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20408 202-501-5400 Fax: 202-501-5244

National Archives and **Records Administration** at College Park

8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-

301-713-6800

E-mail: inquire@nara.gov

www.nara.gov

NARA is an independent Federal agency that helps preserve our nation's history by overseeing the management of all Federal records. NARA's mission is to provide ready access to essential evidence that documents the rights of American citizens, the actions of Federal officials, and the national experience.

National Archives and **Record Administration** at Washington DC

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20408 202-501-5403 E-mail:

Joann.williamson@archi.nara.gov www.nara.gov

National Council on Disability (NCD)

1331 F Street, NW Suite 1050

Washington, DC 20004 202-272-2004

TDD: 202-272-2074 Fax: 202-272-2022

E-mail: mquigley@ncd.gov www.ncd.gov

The National Council on Disability is an independent federal agency making recommendations

to the President and Congress on policies affecting 54 million Americans with disabilities

National Credit Union Administration

1775 Duke Street Alexandria, VA 22314-3428 703-518-6330 www.ncua.gov The National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund provides Federal insur-

ance for nearly 13,000

credit unions.

National Labor Relations Board Office of the Executive Secretary

National Labor Relations Board 1099 14th Street, NW, Room 11600 Washington, DC 20570 202-273-1940 Fax: 202-273-4270 www.nlrb.gov

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Office of Consumer **Affairs**

Office of Public Affairs **Nuclear Regulatory** Commission (NRC) Washington, DC 20555-0001 301-415-8200 Fax: 301-415-234 E-mail: opa@nrc.gov www.nrc.gov The NRC regulates the commercial use of nuclear materials and nuclear power in the U.S. to protect public health and safety.

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Customer Service Division

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation 1200 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20005-4026

202-326-4100

Toll free: 1-800-400-PBGC TDD: 202-326-4115 Fax: 202-326-4059

F-mail.

webmaster@pbgc.gov www.pbgc.gov

Postal Rate Commission

Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA)

Postal Rate Commission 1333 H Street, NW Suite 300

Washington, DC 20268-0001

Fax: 202-789-6819 E-mail: prc-oca@prc.gov

www.prc.gov

The Commission holds hearings and makes recommendations to the Governors of the Postal Service on proposed changes in postal rates and mail classifications. The Office of the Consumer Advocate represents the interests of the general public in such cases. The Commission and the OCA are separate from the Postal Service and have no involvement

in mail delivery or service matters.

President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities

1331 F Street, NW 3rd Floor Washington, DC 20004-1107 202-376-6200 TDD: 202-376-6205 Fax: 202-376-6219 E-mail: info@pcepd.gov

Railroad Retirement Board

www.pcepd.gov

844 North Rush Street Chicago, IL 60611-2092

312-751-4500

Toll free: 1-800-808-0772

(Helpline)

TDD/TTY: 312-751-4701 Fax: 312-751-7154 E-mail: help@rrb.gov

www.rrb.gov

The Railroad Retirement Board is an independent agency in the executive branch of the Federal Government. The Board's primary function is to administer comprehensive retirement-survivor and unemployment-sickness benefit programs for the nation's railroad workers and their families, under the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance

Securities and **Exchange Commis**sion (SEC)

Acts.

Office of Investor Education and Assistance

Securities and Exchange Commission 450 Fifth Street, NW Washington, DC 20549-0213 202-942-7040 (information

and complaints)

Toll free: 1-800-SEC-0330



(for information and to order publications) TDD: 202-628-9039 Fax: 202-942-9634 (information and complaints) E-mail: help@sec.gov (information and complaints) www.sec.gov

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Toll free: 1-800-U-ASK-SBA (827-5722) (informa-

tion)

TDD: 704-344-6640 Fax: 202-205-7064

E-mail:

answerdesk@sba.com www.sba.gov

SBA offices are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. For the office nearest you, look under "U.S. Government" in your telephone directory.

Social Security Administration

Office of Public Inquir-

Social Security Administration
6401 Security Blvd.

Baltimore, MD 21235
Toll free: 1-800-772-1213 (24 hours)

www.ssa.gov
The Social Security
Administration provides retirement, survivors and

The Social Security
Administration provides
retirement, survivors and
disability benefits, as well
as, administers Supplemental Security Income
(SSI) payments. To report
Social Security or SSI
fraud, call toll free: 1-800269-0271.

Surface Transportation Board (STB)

1925 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20423-0001 Complaints about railroad rates and services.

Office of Congressional and Public Services

Surface Transportation Board (STB) 1925 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20423-

0001 202-565-1592 Fax: 202-565-9016

Office of Press Services

Surface Transportation Board (STB) 1925 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20423-0001 202-565-1596 (press

releases) Fax: 202-565-9016 Press Releases.

U.S. Postal Service

If you experience difficulty when ordering merchandise or conducting business transactions through the mail, or suspect that you have been the victim of a mail fraud or misrepresentation scheme, contact your postmaster or local Postal Inspector.

US Postal Inspection Service

U.S. Postal Service 475 L'Enfant Plaza Washington, DC 20260 202-268-2284 Fax: 202-268-4365 www.usps.gov/ postalinspectors For consumer convenience, all post offices and letter carriers have postage-free Consumer Service Cards available for reporting mail problems and submitting comments and suggestions. If the problem cannot be resolved using the Consumer Service Card or through direct contact with the local post office, write or call:

Consumer Advocate U.S. Postal Service 475 L'Enfant Plaza Washington, DC 20260

202-268-2284 Fax: 202-268-2304 TDD: 202-268-2310 www.usps.gov

Better Business Bureaus (BBBs) are nonprofit organizations supported primarily by local business members. The focus of BBB activities is to promote an ethical marketplace by encouraging honest advertising and selling practices, and by providing alternative dispute resolution. BBBs offer a variety of consumer services. For example, they provide consumer education materials; answer consumer questions; provide information about a business, particularly whether or not there are unanswered or unsettled complaints or other marketplace problems; help resolve buyer/ seller complaints against a business; including mediation and arbitration services; and provide information about charities and other organizations that are seeking public donations.

Once the BBB obtains from the consumer an accurate record of the dispute, the BBB will take up the complaint with the company involved. If the complaint cannot be satisfactorily resolved through communication with the business, the BBB may offer an alternative dispute settlement process, such as mediation or arbitration. BBBs do not judge or rate individual products or brands, handle employer/employee wage disputes or give legal advice.

If you need help with a consumer question or complaint, call your local BBB to ask about its services. Seven BBBs provide information via

1-900 telephone numbers that charge \$3.80 for the first 4 minutes, \$.95 per minute thereafter, with a maximum charge of \$9.50. Some numbers require a major credit card to access information and charge a flat fee of \$3.80. Or you can contact the BBB online at www.bbb.org for business and charity reports, scam alerts, and information about BBB programs and locations. BBBOnLine provides Internet users an easy way to verify the legitimacy and privacy practices of online businesses. Companies carrying the BBBOnLine reliability seal have been checked out by the BBB, and agree to resolve customer concerns regarding products promoted online. Visit www.bbbonline.org for a list of participating companies, and for information about the BBBOnLine privacy seal.

The Council of Better Business Bureaus, the umbrella organization for the BBBs, can assist with complaints about the truthfulness of national advertising claims, including children's advertising; provide reports on national soliciting charities; and help to settle warranty disputes with automobile manufacturers through the BBB AUTO LINE program. In addition to the BBBs listed below, there are 16 BBBs in Canada. The Council of Better Business Bureaus can give you the addresses for Bureaus in Canada.

☆ Council

Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc. 4200 Wilson Boulevard Arlington, VA 22203 703-276-0100

Fax: 703-525-8277 www.bbb.org

Bureaus

Alabama

1210 South 20th Street Birmingham, AL 35205

205-933-5550 205-558-2238 Fax: 205-558-2239

E-mail: info@birmingham-

al.bbb.org

www.birmingham-al.bbb.org

118 Woodburn Dothan, AL 36305 334-794-0492

Toll free in AL: 1-800-824-5274

Fax: 334-794-0659

205 South Seminary Street Suite 114

Florence, AL 35630 256-740-8223 Fax: 256-740-8219

www.northalabama.bbb.org

107 Lincoln Street, NE P.O. Box 383 Huntsville, AL 35804 256-533-1640 256-539-2118 Toll free: 1-800-239-1642 (N.

Alabama only)

907-562-0704

Fax: 205-533-1177 E-mail:

info@northalabama.bbb.org www.northalabama.bbb.org

100 North Royal Street P.O. Box 2008 (36652-2008) Mobile, AL 36602

334-433-5494 Fax: 334-438-3191

E-mail: info@bbbsouthal.org www.bbbaouthal.org

Alaska

2805 Bering Street, Suite 5 P.O. Box 93550 Anchorage, AK 99503-3819



Fax: 907-562-4061 E-mail: info@bbb.org www.alaska.bbb.org

542 Fourth Avenue Suite 217 **Fairbanks**, AK 99701 907-451-0222

Fax: 907-451-0228

Arizona

4428 North 12th Street **Phoenix**, AZ 85014-4585

602-264-1721

Toll free: 1-877-291-6222

(520 Area Only) Fax: 602-263-0997

E-mail: info@phoenix.bbb.org www.phoenix.bbb.org

3620 North 1st Avenue, Suite 136 **Tucson**, AZ 85719

520-888-5353

Toll free in S. AZ: 1-800-696-2827

Fax: 520-888-6262 www.tucson.bbb.orb

Arkansas

1415 South University Little Rock, AR 72204-2605

501-664-7274

Toll free: 1-800-682-8448 Fax: 501-664-0024 E-mail: arkbbb@aol.com www.arkansas.bbb.org

California

705 18th Street P.O. Box 1311

Bakersfield, CA 93301-1311

661-322-2074 Fax: 661-322-8318

E-mail: info@bakersfield.bbb.org

www.bakersfield.bbb.org

315 North LaCadena P.O. Box 970 **Colton**, CA 92324

909-835-6069 Fax: 909-835-6246 E-mail: info@la.bbb.org www.bbbsouthland.org

2519 West Shaw, #106 Fresno, CA 93711 559-222-8111 Fax: 559-228-6518 www.fresno.bbb.org

3727 West Sixth Street, Suite 607 **Los Angeles**, CA 90020

213-368-3850 909-426-0813 Fax: 213-251-9986 www.la.bbb.org

510 Broadway, Suite 200 Millbrae, CA 94030

650-552-9222 Fax: 650-652-1748

E-mail: info@sanmateo.bbb.org

www.sanmateo.bbb.com

510 16th Street, Suite 550 **Oakland**, CA 94612-1584

510-238-1000 Fax: 510-238-1018

www.bbb.goldengate.org

550 W. Orangethorpe Avenue **Placentia**, CA 92870

714-985-8900 Fax: 714-985-8900 www.la.bbb.org

400 S Street

Sacramento, CA 95814-6997

916-443-6843 Fax: 916-443-0376 E-mail:

E-IIIaII.

info@sacramento.bbb.org www.sacramento.bbb.org

5050 Murphy Canyon Road

Suite 110

San Diego, CA 92123

858-496-2131 Fax: 858-496-2141

www.sandiego.bbb.org

2100 Forest Avenue, Suite 110

San Jose, CA 95128 408-278-7400

Fax: 408-278-7444 www.bbbsilicon.org

213 Santa Barbara Street P.O. Box 129 (93102-0129) **Santa Barbara**, CA 93102

805-963-8657

Toll free: 1-800-493-8817 (805 area

only)

Fax: 805-962-8557

www.santabarbara.bbb.org

11 South San Joaquin Street

Suite 803

Stockton, CA 95202-3202

209-948-4880 Fax: 209-465-6302

E-mail: info@stockton.bb.org

www.stockton.bbb.org

Colorado

25 North Wahsatch P.O. Box 7970

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

719-636-1155 Fax: 719-636-5078

E-mail:

carole@coloradosprings.bbb.org www.coloradosprings.bbb.org

1780 South Bellaire

Suite 700

Denver, CO 80222-4350 303-758-2100 (automated) 303-758-0057 (9-4 M-F mst)

Fax: 303-758-8321

E-mail: info@denver.bbb.org

www.denver.bbb.org

1730 South College Avenue

Suite 303

Fort Collins, CO 80525

970-224-4222 970-484-1348 Fax: 970-221-1239

E-mail: info@rockymtn.bbb.org

www.rockymnt.bbb.org

119 West 6th Street

Suite 203

Pueblo, CO 81003

719-542-6464

E-mail: info@pueblo.bbb.org

www.pueblo.bbb.org

Connecticut

Parkside Building 821 North Main Street Ext. **Wallingford**, CT 06492-2420

203-269-2700 Fax: 203-269-3124

www.connecticut.bbb.org

Delaware

1010 Concord Avenue, Suite 101

Wilmington, DE 19802

302-594-9200

Fax: 302-594-1052

E-mail: info@wilmington.bbb.org www.wilmington.bbb.org

District of Columbia

1411 K Street, NW, Suite 1000 **Washington**, DC 20005-3406

202-393-8000 Fax: 202-393-1198 E-mail: info@dc.bbb.org www.dc.bbb.org

Florida

151 S.Wymore Road, Suite 100 Altimonte Springs, FL 32714

407-621-3300

Toll free in FL: 1-800-275-6614

Fax: 407-786-2625 www.orlando.bbb.org

5830 142nd Avenue North Suite B (34620) P.O. Box 7950

Clearwater, FL 33758-7950 727-535-5522 (Pinellas County) Toll free in FL: 1-800-525-1447

Fax: 727-530-5863 www.clearwater.bbb.org

7820 Arlington Expressway, #147 **Jacksonville**, FL 32211 904-721-2288

Toll free in FL: 1-800-940-1315 Fax: 904-721-7373

E-mail: bbbnefla@bellsouth.net www.bbbnortheastflorida.org

921 East Gadsden (32501) P.O. Box 1511

Pensacola, FL 32597-1511

850-429-0002

Toll free: 1-800-729-9226 (FL

only)

Fax: 850-429-0006

www.northwestflorida.bbb.org

1950 SE Port St. Lucie Boulevard

Suite 211

Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

561-686-2200 561-878-2010

Toll free: 1-800-834-1267

Fax: 561-868-2775

E-mail: westpalm@gte.net www.westpalm.bbb.org

2924 N. Australian Avenue West Palm Beach, FL 33407

561-686-2200 Fax: 561-686-2775

E-mail: westpalm@gte.net www.westpalm.bbb.org

Georgia

101 1/2 South Jackson, Suite E P.O. Box 808 (31702) **Albany**, GA 31701 912-883-0744

Fax: 912-438-8222

P.O. Box 2707 100 Edgewood Avenue, NE

Suite 1012

Atlanta, GA 30303

404-688-0443 Fax: 404-688-8901

E-mail: info@atlanta.bbb.org

www.atlanta.bbb.org

301 7th Street (30901)

P.O. Box 2087

Augusta, GA 30903-2085

706-722-1574 Fax: 706-724-0969

www.augusta-ga.bbb.org

208 13th Street P.O. Box 2587

Columbus, GA 31902-2587

706-324-0712 Fax: 706-324-2181 E-mail: info@columbus-

L-man. Imo@columba.

ga.bbb.org

www.columbus-ga.bbb.org

277 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Suite 102 **Macon**, GA 31201-3495

912-742-7999 Fax: 912-742-8191

E-mail: info@macon.bbb.org

www.macon.bbb.org

6606 Abercorn Street, Suite 108-C **Savannah**, GA 31405

912-354-7521 (9 am-1 pm, M-Th)

Fax: 912-354-5068

E-mail: savannahcb@gte.net

www.savannah.bbb.org

Hawaii

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1507 **Honolulu**, HI 98613-2822

808-536-6956 Fax: 808-523-2335

E-mail: info@hawaii.bbb.org

www.hawaii.bbb.org

Idaho

4619 Emerald St., Suite A2 Boise, ID 83706

208-342-4649

Toll free: 1-800-218-1001 (ID only)

Fax: 208-342-5116 www.boise.bbb.org

1575 South Blvd.

Idaho Falls, ID 83404-5926

208-523-9754 Fax: 208-524-6190 E-mail: bbb-if@srv.net www.idahofalls.bbb.org

Illinois

330 North Wabash Avenue

Suite 2006

Chicago, IL 60611 312-832-0500

Fax: 312-832-9985 www.chicago.bbb.org

3024 West Lake, Suite 200

Peoria, IL 61615-3770

309-688-3741 Fax: 309-681-7290 E-mail: bbb@heart.net

www.peoria.bbb.org

810 East State Street, 3rd Floor

Rockford, IL 61104 815-963-2222

Fax: 815-963-0329 www.chicago.bbb.org

Indiana

722 West Bristol Street, Suite C

Elkhart, IN 46515-0405

219-262-9884 Fax: 219-266-2026

E-mail: bbbelk@sbtinfi.net www.elkhart.bbb.org

1139 Washington Square **Evansville**, IN 47715

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These organizations define their missions as consumer assistance, protection and/or advocacy. The descriptions below are based on information they provided. The services they provide vary. Those that assist individuals with marketplace problems are specified. Otherwise, these organizations do not assist consumers with individual complaints, although many are interested in hearing from consumers about problems, issues and trends in

connection with their advocacy and consumer education activities. Most, though not all, develop and distribute consumer education and information materials; several are professional associations primarily or exclusively concerned with improving consumer protection or customer service; and many are engaged in advocacy of consumer interests before government, the courts and the news media. Where informational or educational materials are offered, there may be a charge;



Consumer Issues Section 601 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20049 202-434-6030 Fax: 202-434-6466 The Consumer Issues unit is charged by AARP to examine those consumer problems and issues that impact the financial security of people 50 years of age and older, and to help its members protect themselves from marketplace fraud and deception. To this end, Consumer Issues stays abreast of current and breaking consumer developments, and employs a variety of strategies to inform AARP members.

Alliance Against Fraud in Telemarketing and Electronic Commerce (AAFTEC)

National Consumers League 1701 K Street, NW Suite 1200 Washington, DC 20006 202-835-3323 Fax: 202-835-0747 E-mail: info@nclnet.org www.ncInet.org The alliance, coordinated by the National Consumers League, is a coalition of public interest groups, trade associations, labor unions,

businesses, law enforcement agencies, educators, and consumer protection agencies. AAFTEC members promote efforts to educate the public about telemarketing and Internet fraud, and how consumers can shop safely by phone and online.

American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI)

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University of Missouri

Columbia, MO 65211

573-882-3817 Fax: 573-884-6571 F-mail: acci@showme.missosuri.edu www.consumerinterests.org Serving the professional needs of consumer educators, researchers, and policymakers, ACCI publications and educational programs foster the production, synthesis, and dissemination of information in the consumer interest.

American Council on Science and Health (ACSH)

1995 Broadway 2nd Floor New York, NY 10023-5860 212-362-7044 Fax: 212-362-4919 E-mail: acsh@acsh.org Web site: www.acsh.org A nonprofit public education group, ACSH has the goal to provide consumers with up-to-date scientifically sound information on the relationship between human health and chemicals, foods, lifestyles, and the environment. Booklets and special reports on a variety of topics are available, as is a quarterly magazine, Priorities.

Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)

1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 300 Washington, DC 20009 202-332-9110 Fax: 202-265-4954 E-mail: cspi@cspinet.org www.cspinet.org A nonprofit, membership organization, CSPI conducts research, education, and advocacy on nutrition, health, food safety and related issues, and publishes the monthly Nutrition Action Healthletter as well as other consumer information materials.

Center for the Study of **Services**

733 15th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202-347-7283 Fax: 202-347-4000 www.checkbook.org



Nonprofit organization that publishes books and pamphlets to help consumers select doctors, hospitals, and health plans. Publishes pamphlets and offers services to help consumers get good prices on new cars. Publishes information and maintains on-line database to help consumers shop for good prices and desired features in bigticket products — audio-video, major appliances, sporting goods, tires, home-office, etc.

Coalition Against Insurance Fraud

1010 Vermont Avenue, N.W. Suite 510

Washington, DC 20005 202-393-7330

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www.InsuranceFraud.org The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud is a national alliance of consumer groups, government agencies, and insurance companies dedicated to combating all forms of insurance fraud through advocacy and public information. It conducts research, develops public education programs and publishes a consumer brochure, How to Avoid Becoming a Victim of Insurance Fraud, which is available upon request. It also refers consumers to appropriate agencies to report incidences of insurance fraud.

Community Nutrition Institute (CNI)

910 17th Street, NW, Suite 413 Washington, DC 20006 202-776-0595

Fax: 202-776-0599 E-mail: cni@unidial.com www.unidial.com/~cni An advocate for programs and services to enable consumers to enjoy a diet that is adequate, safe, and healthy, CNI also works to increase citizen participation in the state and Federal policy and administrative processes to achieve these goals. CNI publishes Nutrition Week, a newsletter covering nutrition and food safety issues, as well as related legislative and regulatory actions.

Congress Watch

215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20003 202-546-4996

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An arm of Public Citizen, Congress Watch works for consumer-related legislation, regulation, and policies in such areas as health and safety, and campaign financing, and has publications available on the issues with which it deals.

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213-623-8327 (hotline) TTY: 415-777-9456

Fax: 415-777-5267 E-mail: info@consumer-action.org

www.consumer-action.org Consumer Action assists consumers with marketplace problems. An education and advocacy organization specializing in credit, finance, and telecommunications issues, Consumer Action offers a multilingual consumer complaint hotline, free information on its surveys of banks and long-distance telephone companies, and consumer education materials in as many as eight languages. Community based organizations can receive these free publications in bulk.

Consumer Alert

1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 1128 Washington, DC 20036

202-467-5809

Fax: 202-467-5814

E-mail: info@consumeralert.org www.consumeralert.org Consumer Alert's mission is to inform the public about the consumer benefits of competitive enterprise and to expose the flawed economic, scientific and risk data that underlie certain public policies. Consumer Alert has an active program of consumers with information to help them make every day

decisions. The constituent of Consumer Alert is the real consumer who pays the bills.

Consumer Federation of America (CFA)

1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 604 Washington, DC 20036 202-387-6121 Fax: 202-265-7989 www.consumerfed.org Comprised of more than 240 organizations representing a membership exceeding 50 million consumers, CFA is a consumer advocacy and education organization. Issues on which it currently represents consumer interests before Congress and Federal regulatory agencies include telephone service, insurance and financial services, product safety, indoor air pollution, health care, product liability, and utility rates. It develops and distributes studies of various consumer issues,

Consumers for World Trade (CWT)

as well as consumer guides in book

CFA publishes several newsletters.

and pamphlet form. In addition,

2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20036 202-785-4835

Fax: 202-416-1734

E-mail: cwt@cwt.org

www.cwt.org

A nonprofit organization, CWT supports trade expansion and liberalization to promote economic growth and increase consumer choice and price competition in the marketplace. Various publications are available.

Families USA Foundation

1334 G Street, NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20005-3169 202-628-3030

Fax: 202-347-2417

E-mail: info@familiesusa.org

www.familiesusa.org

A national, nonprofit membership organization committed to comprehensive reform of health and longterm care, Families USA works to

educate and mobilize consumers on health care issues. In addition to its two grass roots advocacy networks-asap!, a network of health and long-term care reform activists, and HealthLink USA, a nationwide health reform computer network for public interest groups--Families USA develops and distributes reports and other materials on health and long-term care issues.

HALT: An Organization of Americans for Legal Reform

1612 K Street, NW, Suite 510 Washington, DC 20006 202-887-8255

Toll free: 1-888-367-4258 Fax: 202-887-9699 E-mail: halt@halt.org

www.halt.org

HALT's mission is to enable Americans to handle their legal affairs affordably, equitably, and simply. HALT publishes a series of self-help

legal manuals, operates a legal information clearinghouse, and advocates for legal reforms which

Health Research Group (HRG)

will benefit consumers.

1600 20th Street, NW Washington, DC 20009 202-588-1000 www.citizen.org/hrg A division of Public Citizen, HRG works for protection against unsafe foods, drugs, medical devices, and workplaces, and advocates for greater consumer control over personal health decisions. A monthly Health Letter and a monthly letter on prescription drugs are available.

Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy

919 18th Street, NW Washington, DC 20006 202-466-8604

Toll free: 1-888-338-2283 Fax: 202-223-0321

E-mail: info@jumpstartcoalition.org

www.jumpstart.org

The Coalition's direct objective is to encourage curriculum enrichment to ensure that basic personal financial management skills are attained during the K-12 educational experience.

National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators (NACAA)

1010 Vermont Avenue, NW

Suite 514
Washington, DC 20005
202-347-7395
Fax: 202-347-2563
E-mail: nacaa@erols.com
www.nacaanet.org
An association of the administrators of local, state, and Federal
Government consumer protection
agencies, NACAA provides training
programs, public policy studies and
conferences, professional publications, and other member services.

National Coalition for Consumer Education (NCCE)

c/o National Consumers League 1701 K Street NW, Suite 1200 Washington, DC 20006 202-835-3323

E-mail: ncce@nclnet.org

Fax: 202-835-0747

www.lifesmarts.org
NCCE is a coalition coordinated by
the National Consumers League. It
develops and provides educational
materials and resources to consumer educators through a
network of state coordinators. The
coalition sponsors LifeSmarts, a
game-show competition open to all
teens in the United States who are
in the 9th through 12th grade.

National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC)

733 15th Street, NW, Suite 540 Washington, DC 20005 202-628-8866

Fax: 202-628-9800

E-mail: member@ncrc.org

www.ncrc.org

NCRC was founded in 1990 with the goal of ending discriminatory banking practices and increasing the flow of private capital and credit into underserved communities across the country. NCRC has over 600 members in every state and major city in America as well as in many smaller cities and rural areas.

National Consumer Law Center (NCLC)

18 Tremont Street

Boston, MA 02108 617-523-8010 Fax: 617-523-7398 E-mail: consumerlaw@nclc.org www.consumerlaw.org NCLC is an advocacy and research organization focusing on the needs of low-income consumers. It represents the interests of consumers in court, before administrative agencies, and before legislatures. The Center also publishes Surviving Debt: A Guide for Consumers and the Consumer Credit and Sales Legal Practice Series consisting of thirteen desk reference manuals for attorneys.

National Consumers League

1701 K Street NW Suite 1200 Washington, DC 20006 202-835-3323 Fax: 202-835-0747 E-mail: info@nclnet.org www.ncInet.org Founded in 1899, the mission of the NCL is to identify, protect, represent, and advance the economic and social interests of consumers and workers. The league is a nonprofit membership organization working for health, safety, and fairness in the marketplace and workplace. Current principal issue areas include consumer fraud, food and drug safety, fair labor standards, child labor, health care, the environment, financial services and telecommunications. The league develops and distributes consumer education materials and newslet-

National Fraud Information Center/Internet Fraud Watch (NFIC/IFW)

P.O. Box 65868

Washington, DC 20035

Toll free: 1-800-876-7060 (9 a.m. - 5 p.m. M-F EST: TDD available) TDD/TTY: 202-835-0778

Fax: 202-835-0767 www.fraud.org

NFIC/IFW assists consumers with recognizing and filing complaints about telemarketing and Internet fraud. A project of the National Consumers League, the hotline provides consumers with information to help them avoid becoming victims of fraud, and assistance in relaying consumers' reports about telemarketing and Internet to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Spanish-speaking counselors available.

National Institute for **Consumer Education** (NICE)

559 Gary Owen Building Eastern Michigan University Ypsilanti, MI 48197 734-487-2292 Fax: 734-487-7153 E-mail: gwen.reichbach@emich.edu www.nice.emich.edu NICE is a consumer education ment center for K-12 classroom

resource and professional developteachers, business, government, labor, and community educators. NICE conducts training programs, develops teaching guides and resource lists, and manages a national clearinghouse of consumer education materials, including videos, software programs, textbooks, and curriculum guides.

Public Citizen, Inc.

1600 20th Street, NW Washington, DC 20009 202-588-1000 Fax: 202-588-7799 www.citizen.org A national, nonprofit membership organization representing consumer interests through lobbying, litigation, research, and publications,

Public Citizen represents consumer interests in Congress, the courts, government agencies, and the media. Primary current areas of interest include product liability, health care delivery, safe medical devices and medications, open and ethical government, and safe and sustainable energy use.

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH)

7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 1200 Bethesda, MD 20814 301-657-2248 TTY: 301-657-2249

Fax: 301-913-9413 www.shhh.org

The largest international consumer organization devoted to serving the interests of consumers with hearing loss through self help, advocacy, and education. Publishes Hearing Loss: The Journal of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People.

Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals in **Business (SOCAP)**

801 North Fairfax Street, Suite 404 Alexandria, VA 22314 703-519-3700

Fax: 703-549-4886

E-mail: socap@socap.org

www.socap.org

An international professional organization, SOCAP provides training, conferences and publications to encourage and maintain the integrity of business in transactions with consumers; to encourage and promote effective communication and understanding among business. government and consumers; and to define and advance the consumer affairs profession.

U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG)

218 D Street, SE Washington, DC 20003-1900 202-546-9707 Fax: 202-546-2461 E-mail: uspirg@pirg.org

www.pirg.org

U.S. PIRG is the national lobbying office for the state public interest research groups. The PIRGs are consumer environmental advocacy groups active in many states across the country. U.S. PIRG works on a variety of consumer and environmental protection issues, including bank fees, credit bureau abuses, clean air and clean water, right to know, campaign finance reform, and various other issues. U.S. PIRG does not handle individual consumer complaints directly but measures complaint levels to gauge the need for remedial legislation.

United Seniors Health Cooperative (USHC)

409 Third Street, S.W. Suite 200 Washington, DC 20024-3212 202-479-6973

Fax: 202-479-6660 E-mail: ushc@erols.com www.ushc-online.org USHC is a nonprofit membership organization that provides consumer tested information to help seniors achieve good health, independence, and financial security. Publications include books on long-term care planning, managing health care finances, and choosing an HMO. Professionals working with lowincome persons of all ages will find USHC's benefit screening software valuable for a quick, comprehensive determination of a person's eligibility for public benefits and assistance programs.

Companies that manufacture similar products or offer similar services often belong to industry associations. These associations help resolve problems between their member companies and consumers. Most also provide consumer information and education materials through publications and on their web sites. If you have a problem with a company and cannot resolve it by working directly with that firm, ask if the company is a member of an association. Then, check this section to see if the association is listed. If the association is not included here, your local library has reference materials to help you find the appropriate contact.

Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)

750 First Street, NE, Suite 980 Washington, DC 20002 202-336-6780 Fax: 202-842-2593 E-mail: acics@acics.org www.acics.org Association of accredited career schools training in business and business-related subjects.

American Financial Services Association (AFSA) **Education Foundation**

Susie Irvine, Executive Director 919 Eighteenth Street, NW Washington, DC 20006 202-466-8611

E-mail: susie@afsamail.org

www.afsaef.org

The AFSA Education Foundation develops personal money management educational materials to help the public understand the credit process, seek help if credit problems occur, and realize the benefits of responsible money management.

America's Community

900 19th Street, NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20006 202-857-3103

Fax: 202-296-8716

E-mail: info@acbankers.org

www.acbankers.org

ACB is the national trade association for 2,000 savings and community financial institutions and related business firms. ACB makes information developed by its members on consumer financial services, housing, finance, and community development available free of charge.

American Apparel Manufacturers Association

Joan McNeal, Director, Member and **Industry Relations** 2500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 301 Arlington, VA 22201 703-524-1864 Toll free: 1-800-520-2262

E-mail:

imcneal@americanapparel.org www.americanapparel.org Membership: Manufacturers of

clothing.

American Arbitration Association

Toni Griffin, Vice President Corporate Communications 355 Madison Avenue 10th FL New York, NY 10017

Toll free: 1-800-778-7879

www.adr.org

A nonprofit public service organization with 37 regional offices across the country. Provides consumer information on request. Check local telephone directory for listing. If there is no office in your area, write or call the office listed above.

American Automobile Manufacturers Association

1401 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202-326-5500

Fax: 202-326-5546

The American Automobile Manufacturers Association members are Chrysler Corporation, Ford Motor Company, and General Motors Corporation. The association provides industry statistics and educational material on issues affecting the automobile industry.

American Bankers Association

1120 Connecticut Ave., NW Washington, DC 20036 202-663-5000 Fax: 202-663-7578 www.aba.com

The American Bankers Association is the largest banking trade association in the country. Its membership includes community, regional, and money center banks as well as savings associations, trust companies, and savings banks. It will provide consumer education materials on request.

American Bar Association

Jack Hanna, Director, Section on Dispute Resolution 740 15th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

202-662-1680 Fax: 202-662-1683

E-mail: dispute@abanet.org www.abanet.org/dispute Publishes a directory of state and local alternative dispute resolution programs. Provides consumer information on request.

American Council of Life **Insurers**

1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 500 South Washington, DC 20004-2599

202-624-2000

Toll free: 1-800-942-4242 (consumer helpline)

Fax: 202-624-2319

Trade association of over 500 insurance companies that provide life insurance, pensions and annuities, long-term care, and disability income insurance.



American Health Care Association

1201 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20005-4014

202-842-4444

Toll free: 1-800-321-0343 (purchase

publications only) Fax: 202-842-3860 www.ahca.org

Membership: State associations of long-term health care facilities. Also, associate business membership program for health related

businesses.

American Institute of Certified Public Accoun-

Lisa Snyder, Director, Professional **Ethics Division**

Harborside Financial Center

201 Plaza III

Jersey City, NJ 07311-3881

201-938-3175 Fax: 201-938-3367

E-mail: lsnyder@aicpa.org

Membership: Professional organization of accountants certified by the

states and territories.

American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association

Robert T. Van Hook, CAE, Executive Director

1650 King Street, Suite 500 Alexandria, VA 22314

703-836-7116 Fax: 703-836-0838 www.opoffice.org

The American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association is a national trade association committed to providing high quality, unprecendented business services and products to O&P professionals. Since our founding in 1917, we have worked diligently to establish ourselves as the voice for O&P businesses. AOPA membership consists of over 1800 O&P companies, suppliers, and affiliates who design, fabricate, fit and supervise the use of orthoses (orthopedic braces) and prostheses (artificial limbs).

American Society of Travel Agents, Inc.

Linda High, Director, Consumer **Affairs** 1101 King Street, Suite 200

Alexandria, VA 22314 703-739-8739 (consumer hot line)

Fax: 703-684-8319 www.astanet.com

Membership: Travel agents.

American Textile Manufacturers Institute

Gail Raiman, Director, Communica-

tions Division

1130 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Suite 1200

Washington, DC 20036

202-862-0500

www.atmi.org

Membership: Textile plants which produce a variety of textile products, including fabrics for apparel, home furnishings and industrial fabrics.

American Toy Institute

Marisa Gordon, Asst. Communications Director

1115 Broadway, Suite 400 New York, NY 10010

212-675-1141

Fax: 212-633-1429 www.toy-tma.com

Membership: American toy manu-

facturers.

Better Hearing Institute

P.O. Box 1840

Washington, DC 20013 703-644-3391

Toll free: 1-800-EAR-WELL Voice/TDD: 1-888-HEAR-HELP

Fax: 703-684-6048

E-mail: MAIL@betterhearing.org

www.betterhearing.org

A nonprofit educational organization, BHI informs persons with impaired hearing and the general public about hearing loss and available help through medicine, surgery, amplification, and other rehabilitation. Membership: professionals and others who help persons with impaired hearing.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Consumer Affairs 1310 G Street, NW 12th Floor Washington, DC 20005 202-626-4780 Fax: 202-626-4833

www.bluecross.com

Membership: Local Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans in the United States, Canada and Jamaica.

Boat Owners Association of The United States, BOAT/ U.S.

Caroline Ajootian, Director, Consumer Protection Bureau 880 South Pickett Street Alexandria, VA 22304-0730 703-823-9550

www.boatus.com

The Consumer Protection Bureau serves as a mediator in disputes between boat owners and the marine industry, BOAT/U.S. also works closely with the U.S. Coast Guard to monitor safety defect problems.

Career College Association (CCA)

10 G Street NE Suite 750

Washington, DC 20002

202-336-6700

E-mail: briann@career.org

www.career.org

Membership: Career-specific post secondary education institutions.

Carpet and Rug Institute

Kathryn Sellers, Director of Communications

301 Holiday Avenue PO Box 2048 Dalton, GA 30720

706-278-3176

Toll free: 1-800-882-8846 Fax: 706-278-8835 www.carpet-rug.com

Membership: Manufacturers of carpets, rugs, bath mats; suppliers of raw materials and services to the

industry.

Cemetery Consumer Service Council

Robert Fells, Assistant Secretary P.O. Box 2028

Reston, VA 20195-0028

703-391-8407

Fax: 703-391-8416

Industry-sponsored dispute resolution program. Other consumer information about cemetery practices and rules available on request.

Certified Financial Planner **Board of Standards**

Janis McCubbrey, Manager Consumer Relations Communication and Consumer Services

1700 Broadway, Suite 2100 Denver, CO 80290-2101

303-830-7500

Toll free: 1-888-237-6275 Fax: 303-860-7388

E-mail: mail@cfp-board.org

www.CFP-Board.org The CFP Board is a nonprofit professional regulatory organization founded in 1985 to benefit the public by fostering professional standards in personal financial planning. Individuals who meet rigorous certification requirements are licensed by the CFP Board to use its federally registered trademarks CFP® and Certified Financial Planner®. Consumers can call the CFP Board or visit its web site to confirm that a planner is authorized to use the CFP trademarks, to learn if the CFP Board has publicly disciplined a planner, or to lodge a complaint against a CFP practitio- Consumer Affairs ner. The Board also provides consumer education information on financial planning, choosing a financial planner and other relevant topics.

Children's Advertising Review Unit (CARU)

Council of Better Business Bureaus.

845 Third Avenue New York, NY 10022 212-705-0124

Fax: 212-308-4743 www.caru.org

Handles consumer complaints about truth and accuracy of advertising directed to children under 12

years of age.

Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association (CEMA)

Consumer Affairs 2500 Wilson Boulevard Arlington, VA 22201-3834 703-907-7600 Fax: 703-907-7601 www.cemacity.org CEMA is a sector of the Electronics Industries Alliance (EIA), the trade organization representing all facets of electronics manufacturing.

CEMA represents U.S. manufacturers of audio, video, mobile electronics, communication, information and multimedia products and accessories which are sold through consumer channels.

Credit Union National Association (CUNA)

Eva Cry, Information Manager 5710 Mineral Point Road Madison, WI 53701 608-232-8256

Fax: 608-232-8240 E-mail: ecry@cuna.com

www.cuna.org

Serves more than 90% of credit unions through credit union leagues in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Credit unions are cooperative non-profit financial institutions owned and controlled by members; they belong to credit union leagues, which belong to CUNA.

Direct Marketing Association (DMA)

1111 19th Street, NW, Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20036 202-955-5030

Fax: 202-955-0085

E-mail: consumer@the-dma.org

www.the-dma.org

Membership: Companies who market goods and services directly to consumers using direct mail, catalogs, telemarketing, magazine and newspaper ads, and broadcast on-line advertising. DMA operates the Consumer Line, Mail Preference Service and Telephone Preference Service.

ConsumerLine 1111 19th Street, NW, Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20036 202-955-5030

Fax: 202-955-085

E-mail: consumer@the-dma.org www.the-dma.org

Handles complaints regarding both DMA members and non-members.

Mail Preference Service P.O. Box 9008 Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008 Handles written requests for name removal from most national advertising mailing lists.

Sweepstakes Helpline 1111 19th Street NW Washington, DC 20036 202-861-2475

E-mail: sweepstakes@the-dma.org Handles complaints related specifically to sweepstakes advertising, including complaints from caregivers of older consumers.

Telephone Preference Service P.O. Box 9014 Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014 Handles written requests for name and telephone number removal from most national telemarketing lists.E-

E-Mail Preference Service (e-MPS) www.e-mps.org

This free service allows consumers to reduce the amount of unsolicited commercial email they receive.

⚠ Direct Selling Association (DSA)

1666 K Street, NW, Suite 1010 Washington, DC 20006-2387 202-293-5760

Fax: 202-463-4569 E-mail: info@dsa.org

www.dsa.org

Membership: Companies that manufacture and distribute consumer products person-to-person and through home-party plans using independent salespeople. All members comply with the DSA Code of Ethics which protects consumers of direct selling products as well as the sellers of the products and opportunities.

Distance Education and Training Council

Cindy Donahue, Meeting Coordinator 1601 18th Street, NW Washington, DC 20009 202-234-5100 E-mail: detc@detc.org Membership: Home study (correspondence) schools.

Financial Planning Association (FPA)

(a merger between International Association of Financial Planners and Institute of Certified Financial Planners), Offices in Denver, Atlanta, and Washington DC 801 E. Florida Avenue Suite 708 Denver, CO 80210 303-759-4900





Toll free: 1-800-282 PLAN (con-

sumer line)

E-mail: fpa@fpanet.org

www.fpanet.org

The Financial Planning Association (FPA) is the membership organization for the financial planning community. It is a merger of IAFP and ICFP. Its 28,000+ members are dedicated to supporting the financial planning process in order to help people achieve their goals and dreams. FPA believes that everyone needs objective advice to make smart financial decisions and that when seeking the advice of a financial planner, the planner should be CFP® licensee. FPA provides consumers with names of CFP® professionals in their local area via an 800# or its web site. Helpful information and brochures are also available.

Tood Marketing Institute (FMI)

655 15th Street N.W. Suite 700 Washington, DC 20005 202-452-8444 www.fmi.org FMI conducts programs in research, education, industry relations and public affairs on behalf of its members - grocery retailers and wholesalers.

Insurance Information Institute

Jeanne Salvatore, Vice President, Consumer Affairs Communications 110 William Street New York, NY 10038 212-669-9241 Toll free: 1-800-331-9146

E-mail: jeannes@iii.org

www.iii.org

The National Insurance Consumer Helpline is a resource for consumers with automobile, homeowners and life insurance questions. The Helpline is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., eastern time. Spanish-speaking operators also available.

Monument Builders of North America

Greg Patzer, Executive Vice President 3158 South River Road, Ste 224 Des Plaines, IL 60018 847-803-8800

Fax: 847-803-8823

www.monumentbuilders.org Membership: Cemetery monument retailers, manufacturers and wholesalers: bronze manufacturers and suppliers. Consumer brochures available on request.

National Advertising Division (NAD)

Andrea C. Levine, Director A Division of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc. 845 Third Avenue, 17th Floor New York, NY 10022 212-754-1320 Fax: 212-832-1296 Handles complaints about the truth

National Association of Consumer Protection

and accuracy of national advertising.

Cynthia Francis, NACPI President c/o Arizona Attorney General's Office

400 West Congress, Suite 315 Tuscon, AZ 85701

Investigators (NACPI)

NACPI provides training and support for consumer protection investigators in government agencies at all levels. NACPI does not investigate individual consumer complaints, but helps investigators share information of mutual concern.

National Association of **Funeral Directors**

P.O. Box 486 Elm Grove, WI 53122-9486 Toll free: 1-800-662-7666 Third party dispute resolution program for complaints regarding funeral homes.

National Association of **Home Builders**

William Young, Director Consumer Affairs/Public Liaison 1201 15th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202-822-0409

Toll free: 1-800-368-5242 (outside DC metro area) www.nahb.com

Membership: Single and multi family home builders, commercial builders and others associated with the building industry.

National Association of **Insurance Commissioners** (NAIC)

David Wetmore, Director Federal and International Relations 444 North Capitol St, NW #701 Washington, DC 20001 202-624-7790

Fax: 202-624-8579 www.naic.org

NAIC is the organization of insurance regulators from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the four U.S. territories. One of its primary functions is consumer protection. It produces a number of guides which are distributed to insurance departments and directly to consumers upon request.

National Association of Personnel Services (NAPS)

Diane Callis, President 3133 Mt. Vernon Avenue Alexandria, VA 22305 703-684-0180 Fax: 703-684-0071 www.napsweb.org

Membership: Private employment

agencies.

National Association of **Professional Insurance** Agents

Ted Besesparis, Director Public Relations 400 North Washington Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703-836-9340 Fax: 703-836-4933 E-mail: tedbe@pianet.org www.PIANET.com Provides consumers practical advice on personal insurance buying

program.

National Association of Security Dealers

through its national outreach

Office of Dispute Resolution 125 Broad Street 36th Floor New York, NY 10004 212-858-4400 Fax: 212-858-4429

Third-party dispute resolution for complaints about over-the-counter stocks and corporate bonds.





National Food Processors Association

Brian Folkerts, Vice President of Government Affairs and Communications

1401 New York Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20005 202-639-5900

Fax: 202-639-5932

E-mail: nfpa@nfpa-food.org

www.nfpa-food.org

Membership: Commercial packers of such food products as fruit, vegetables, meat, poultry, seafood, and canned, frozen, dehydrated, pickled and other preserved food items.



🙀 National Futures Associa-

Laura Oatney, Director Public Affairs and Education 200 West Madison Street Chicago, IL 60606-3447 312-781-1370

Toll free: 1-800-621-3570 (outside IL)

Fax: 312-781-1467

E-mail: loatney@nfa.futures.org

www.nfa.futures.org

Contact NFA regarding disputes with futures commission merchants, commodity trading advisors, commodity pool operators, introducing brokers, and associated individuals.



☆ National Home Equity Mortgage Association

Jeffrey Zeltzer, Executive Director 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Suite 500

Washington DC 20004 202-347-1210

Fax: 202-347-1171

E-mail: jzeltzer-de@nhema.org

www.nhema.org

Founded in 1974, NHEMA is committed to keeping consumers informed and able to take advantage of the benefits afforded by home equity mortgages. Today, NHEMA represents 350 member companies in all 50 states, employing tens of thousands of people and providing needed credit to millions of Americans

National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)

Nancy White, Director Communications 13505 Dulles Technology Drive Herndon, VA 20171-3421

703-713-3800 Fax: 703-713-0727

E-mail: nwhite@asecert.org

www.asecert.org

ASE is an independent, national nonprofit organization founded in 1972 to help improve the quality of automotive service and repair through the voluntary testing and certification of automotive repair professionals. More than 424,000 ASE-certified technicians work in dealerships, independent repair shops, service stations, auto parts stores, fleets and schools. ASE publishes several consumer publications about auto maintenance and repair.

National Turkey Federation

Sherrie Rosenblatt, Director, Department of Public Relations 1225 New York Avenue, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20005 202-898-0100

Fax: 202-898-0203

E-mail: info@turkeyfed.org www.eatturkev.com

Membership: Turkey growers, hatcheries, breeders, processors, marketers, and allied industry firms and poultry distributors.

North American Securities Administrators Association, Inc. (NASAA)

10 G Street, NE Suite 710 Washington, DC 20002

202-737-0900

Fax: 202-783-3571

E-mail: general@nasaa.org

www.nasaa.org

NASAA is an international organization devoted to investor protection. Its membership consists of the 66 state, provincial and territorial securities administrators in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico. In the United States, NASAA is the

voice of the 50 state securities agencies responsible for the grassroots investor protection, investor education and efficient capital formation.

Photo Marketing Association

Craig Halverson, Assistant Executive Director 3000 Picture Place Jackson, MI 49201 517-788-8100

Toll free: 1-800-762-9287 Fax: 517-788-8371

E-mail: chalverson@pmai.org

www.pmai.org

Membership: Retailers of photo equipment, film and supplies; firms developing and printing film.

Soap and Detergent Association

Jane Meyer, Director of Consumer Education 475 Park Avenue South New York, NY 10016 212-924-2944

Fax: 212-924-3052 www.sdahq.org

Membership: manufacturers of soap, detergents, fatty acids and glycerine; raw materials suppliers.

Tire Association of North America

11921 Freedom Drive, Suite 550 Reston, VA 20190 703-736-8082 Toll free: 1-800-876-8372

Membership: Independent tire dealers and retreaders.

United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA)

Robert Whitley, President 342 Madison Avenue, Suite 1522 New York, NY 10173 212-599-6599

Fax: 212-599-6744

E-mail: USTOA@aol.com Membership: Wholesale tour operators, common carriers, suppliers, and providers of travel

services.



U.S. Military Consumer Services Programs

Military personnel and their families who are seeking help with consumer problems or financial questions should go directly to their local base's Family Support Center or Community Service Center. Hundreds of Centers worldwide offer assistance in financial and family counseling; consumer, family, and career education; and personal financial planning. Help is also available regarding handling consumer complaints, preparing your income tax, and dealing with emergency financial problems. If you cannot locate a Center, contact your respective military branch's Family Support or Community Service Center headquarters listed below:

Navy Family Service Center

Ed Roscoe, Consumer Affairs Program Manager Chief of Naval Personnel 2 Navy Annex Washington, DC 20370-6620 703-693-0804 (Fachon Reed, PFM Manager) Toll free: 1-800-368-5056 (Consumer Affairs)

Fax: 901-874-2630

Air Force Family Matters Office

David Rothwell, Chief HQ USAF/DPPFF 1040 Air Force Pentagon, Room 5C238

Washington, DC 20330-1040 703-697-4720 Fax: 703-695-4083

Marine Corps Personnel Services

Marine Corps Community Services Dave Neely, Director HqDN,HqMC, Henderson Hall, Bldg # 29 1555 S. Southgate Road **Arlington**, VA 22214-5023 703-614-7205

Fax: 703-614-7209 www.usmc-mccs.org

U.S. Coast Guard Work/ Life Program

Robert Skewer, Director Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard 2100 Second St. SW, Room 6320 **Washington**, DC 20593 202-267-6263

Fax: 202-267-4798

U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center

Army Community Service 4700 King Street **Alexandria**, VA 22302-4418

U.S. Military Commissary and Exchange Offices

Consumers who shop at military commissaries and exchanges and who have a question or problem should contact the local manager before contacting the regional offices in this section. If your problem is not resolved at the local level, then write or call the regional office nearest you. Be sure to discuss the problem with the local and regional offices before contacting the national headquarters of a commissary or exchange.

Army and Air Force Exchange Service

Central Region

Chuck McDonald, Supervisor Customer Relations P.O. Box 660202 Dallas, TX 75266-0202 214-312-3531 Toll free: 1-800-527-6790 Fax: 214-312-2754

www.aafes.com

Northeast Region P.O. Box 660320 **Dallas**, TX 75266-0320 972-277-7103 Fax: 972-277-7115 www.aafes.com

Southeast Region P.O. Box 650320 Dallas, TX 75265-0447 972-277-7303 Fax: 972-277-7315 www.aafes.com

U.S. HeadquartersBarry Bates, Commander

Army and Air Force Exchange Service Headquarters P.O. Box 660202 Dallas, TX 75266-0202 214-312-3531 Fax: 214-312-2754

Fax: 214-312-2754 www.aafes.com

Western Region P.O. Box 650320 Dallas, TX 75265-0429 972-277-7403 Fax: 972-277-7415 www.aafes.com

U.S. Military Commissary and Exchange Offices

Coast Guard Exchange **System**

Central Region

Judy Kelly, Retail Operations Manager Captain Otto Graham Retail 13920 West Parkway Drive Cleveland, OH 44135-4500

216-671-3267 Fax: 216-522-4098

E-mail:Jkelly@CG-Exchange

Corporate Headquarters

Office of Exchange & Moral Loren A. Tschohl, Chief 870 Greenbrier Circle, Tower II Chesapeake, VA 23320-2681 757-420-2480 ext 3014

Fax: 757-420-0286

E-mail:Cmoore@CG-Exchange.com

Western Region

400 Sand Island Parkway Honolulu, HI 96819-4326 808-541-2469

Fax: 808-832-2566

E-mail:Lyatogo@CG-Exchange.com

Defense Commissary Agency

DeCA Headquarters

Robert J. Counter, Jr., Director 1300 E Avenue Fort Lee, VA 23801-1800

804-734-8717

Fax: 804-734-8244 www.commissaries.com

Eastern Region

Charles Wiker, Director Eastern Region 5151 Bonney Road, Suite 201 Virginia Beach, VA 23462-4314 757-462-3500

Fax: 757-462-3565 www.deca.mil

Eastern Region, Northern Area

Dennis A. Syracuse, Vice President Northern Area Office Huber Road, Building 2257 Fort George C. Meade, MD 20755-

5220 301-677-9782 301-677-9823

Toll free: 1-800-987-7295 Fax: 301-677-9222

Eastern Region, Southern Area Owen Boutelle, Vice President 60 West Maxwell Blvd.

Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6307

334-953-6318 334-953-6319

Fax: 334-953-2346/3725 www.commissaries.com

Midwest Region

300 AFCOMS Way, Bldg. 3030 Kelly Air Force Base, TX 78241-

6132 210-925-6655 Fax: 210-925-2619 www.dtic.mil/deca

Southwest Region

Dwight Waterman, Store Director **DECA El Toro Commissary** Building 694, P.O. Box 96017 Irvine, CA 92619-3490 949-726-3079

Fax: 949-726-4330 www.deca.mil

Western Pacific Region

Roy Speight, Director 3401 Acacia Street Building 950

McClellan AFB, CA 95652-1154 916-569-4697 (command secretary)

Fax: 916-569-4695

Marine Corps Exchange Service

Penny Nichols-Stell, Head **Business Operations** Henderson Hall P.O. Box 4009, Bldg. 26 Arlington, VA 22204-0009 703-979-8420

Harry Sherman, Director, Retail Marine Corps Logistics Base Bldq. 319

Barstow, CA 92311-5003 760-256-8974

Fax: 760-256-7027

Fax: 703-979-0972

Ben W. King, Director Marine Corps Air Station P.O. Box 55018

Beaufort, SC 29904-5018 843-228-7627

Fax: 843-228-7077

Glen Wilson, Manager Marine Corps Base Bldg. 84

Camp Lejuene, NC 28542-5003

910-451-3170 Fax: 910-451-2907

E-mail:wilsoncg@lejuene.usmc.kil

Joe Allison, Retail Director Marine Corps Base

Blda. 1108 Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5020

760-725-6233 Toll free: 1-800-375-NCCS (National)

Fax: 760-385-0446

www.mccscamppendIton.com

Hal LaDrew, Manager Marine Corps Air Station Bldg. 3918

Cherry Point, NC 28533-5009 252-447-7041 Fax: 252-447-2922

Pat Sasaki, Senior Buyer, Purchasing Office P.O. Box 63073 Building 1404 Kanehoe Bay, HI 96863-3073

808-254-7522 Fax: 808-254-7508

M. D. Gibsin, Director Camp Elmore 1251 Yalu Street Norfolk, VA 23515-4693

757-423-1187 Fax: 757-423-5819

Marine Corps Recruit Depot ERR Bldg 202, PO Box 5001 Parris Island, SC 29905-5001

843-525-3301 Fax: 843-525-2872

Vicky Bartlett, Head, Retail Marine Corps Combat Dev. Command PO Box 229, Building 3500

Quantico, VA 22134-0229

703-640-8800

Toll free: 1-800-762-8762 Fax: 703-640-6708

Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps. Quantico, VA 22134

703-640-8800 Fax: 703-784-5354

Pat Chavez, Director **Human Resources** Marine Corps Recruit Depot/WRR, 3800 Chosin Avenue San Diego, CA 92140-5196 619-297-2500

Fax: 619-297-2806 www.mwrmcrd.com

Ron Arden, Merchandise Manager USMC Community Services (Attn: Retail & Services) MC Air Ground Combat Center Box 788150

U.S. Military Commissary and Exchange Offices

Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8150

760-830-6163 Fax: 760-830-7239

L. Lumkin III, Retail Officer MCCS Retail Marine Corp Exchange 0270 Box 99115 **Yuma**, AZ 85369-9115 (head retail)

520-341-2363 Fax: 520-344-1902

Regional Headquarters

Terry Whitaker, Head of Retail & Services Marine Corps Exchange Marine Corps Logistics Base, Building 7500 **Albany**, GA 31704-3059 912-888-6801

Fax: 912-439-0324

Navy Exchange Service Center

Marsha Brooks, General Manager Navy Exchange Box 104 Jacksonville Naval Air Station **Jacksonville**, FL 32212-0104 904-777-7200

Fax: 904-777-7221 (General Manager)

Roger Blood, General Manager Navy Exchange Service Center 1560 Mall Drive **Norfolk**, VA 23511-3898

757-440-2000 Fax: 757-444-2131

Gary King, General Manager Navy Exchange Service Center Naval Station Box 368036 San Diego, CA 92136-8036

619-544-2100 Fax: 619-231-7826

Director Navy Exchange Service Center Pacific Rim 1475 Pierce Street **Pearl Harbor**, HI 96860

808-423-3201 Fax: 808-422-7897

Commanding Officer Navy Exchange Service Center **Europe** PSC 810, Box 33 011-39-81-724-4420

Fax: 011-39-81-724-4312

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